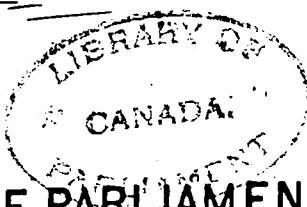
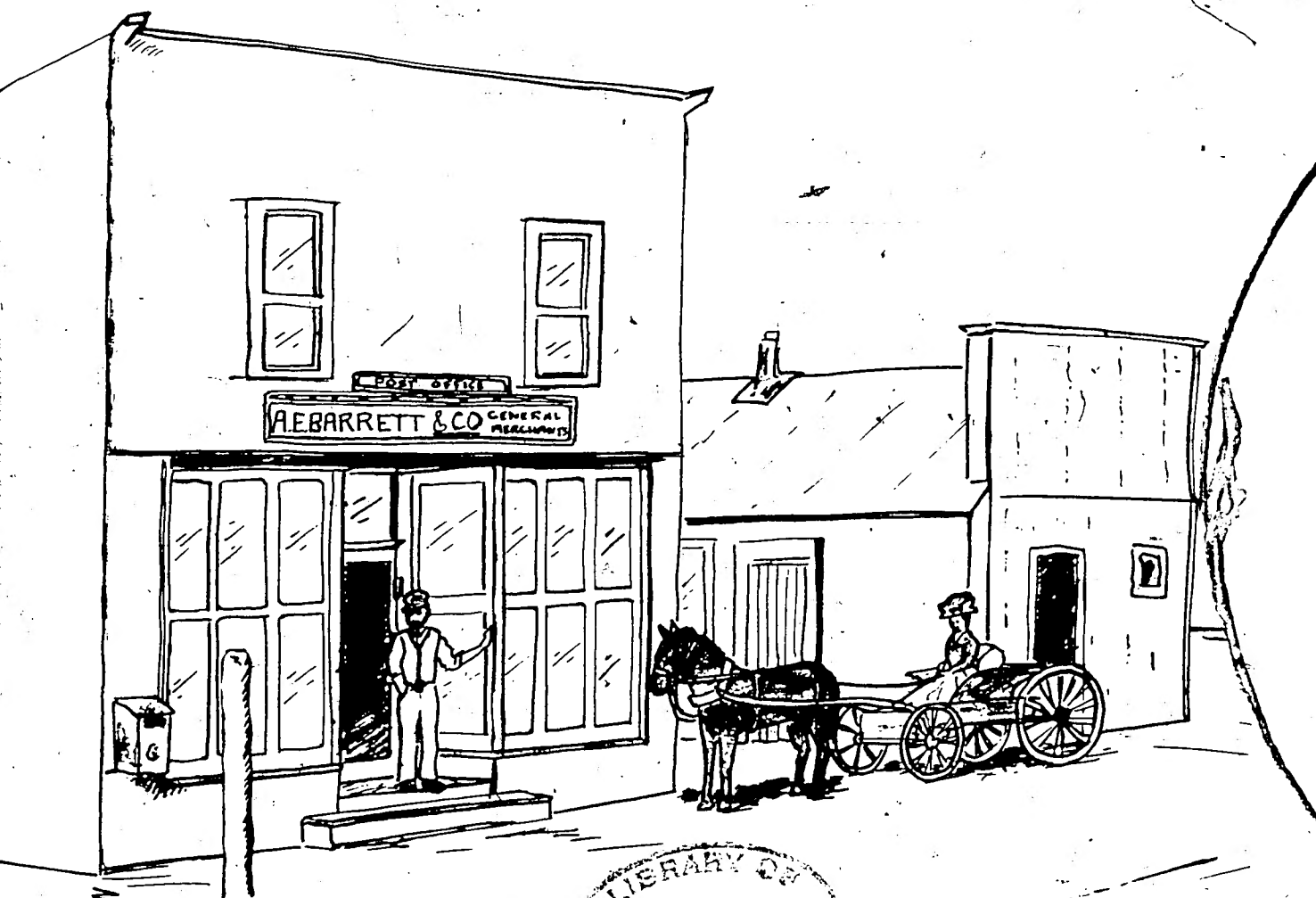


This
Conquest of Ours

1904 - 1948



LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

This
Conquest of Ours
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Published by
THE CONQUEST HOMEMAKERS

Cover design by PAT TODD



LORD AND LADY TWEEDSMUIR

Lady Tweedsmuir's Message

I am so glad to hear that the Women of Canada are going to compile village Events move very fast nowadays down, new roads are made, and the tryside changes completely, some

It is a most useful and satisfying Institute members to see that or forgotten, and women should to guard the traditions of the water colour sketches and legends should find their way oldest people in the village will of what they remember, which can write down, thus making and events which happened by After all, it is the history of his continually interesting to us, and you be the basis of accurate facts much of the future. I am proud to think that them "The Tweedsmuir Village History"

—Written by Lady T.

"This Conquest of Ours" was awarded second prize for the
Dominion in the 1949 Lady Tweedsmuir Competition.

Foreword

To have compiled the history of the district ourselves would have been an almost impossible task, so we would like to say "Thank you" to everyone who helped us. A special "Thank you" to Mrs. P. H. Kennedy, Mr. R. Twidale, Mr. H. Head and Mr. T. Pomeroy, for giving us access to information which made it possible to fix dates accurately; to Mr. Wm. McMillan for map of homestead holdings; to Mrs. G. Todd and Mrs. Bertha King for typing the booklet, and to Pat Todd for designing our cover and Honor Rolls.

THE PIONEER HISTORY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Edna Sibbald — Convener

Mrs. Ethel Sibbald,

Mrs. Dora Head,

Mrs. Isobel Clark,

Mrs. Pauline Forsyth,

Mrs. Lottie Fletcher.

The Conquest Homemakers

IN THE MIDDLE TWENTIES a group of women in the Conquest District was organized as a Women's Section of the United Grain Growers and carried on regular meetings. This organization included only the wives of Grain Growers or shippers of wheat. Since the programs were educational, the group felt that all the women of the community should have the benefit of these meetings, and so at their annual meeting in 1928 they decided they would be a Homemakers' Club, and registered themselves as such at the University.

The first meeting of the Homemakers' Club took place in the Rest Room, February 21st, 1929 with 21 ladies present. The officers elected at this time were:

President Mrs. J. B. Burton
Vice-President Mrs. W. H. Smith
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. C. A. Drummond
Directors: Mrs. P. P. Gaffney, Mrs. J. Shaw,
Mrs. R. J. Anderson, Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Mrs.
R. A. Johnston, Mrs. R. M. Brown.

The club carried on under Mrs. Burton's leadership until 1934, when she was replaced by Mrs. Hopkins. Since that time the officers have been:

1934-38	President	Mrs. H. Hopkins
1934-39	Secretary	Mrs. H. A. Head
1938	President	Mrs. W. F. Harrison
1939-42	President	Mrs. P. H. Kennedy
1939-42	Secretary	Mrs. W. L. Clark
1942-46	President	Mrs. W. L. Clark
1942	Secretary	Miss Helen Sibbald
1943	Secretary	Mrs. J. C. Kerr
1946	President	Mrs. F. Tyler
1946-48	Secretary	Mrs. J. F. Sibbald
1947	President	Mrs. J. C. Kerr
1948	President	Mrs. W. L. Clark

It was decided that the Club would be called "The Conquest Homemakers' Club" and would meet on the third Thursday of each month. The membership fee was set at \$1.00 per annum. This fee was changed in 1931 to 50 cents a year, in 1934 to 35 cents and in 1948 it was raised to 50 cents again.

The Rest Room

The first big project undertaken by the Conquest Homemakers' Club was the buying of the Rest Room from Mr. H. C. Wilson in April of 1929. This building had been formerly used as his bake shop, and the cost was to be \$450.00 cash or \$500.00, on time, with interest at 7%. In May 1929 the Club borrowed \$350.00 from the United Grain Growers' Association and paid cash for the Rest Room.

In order to pay off this loan the Club held various kinds of entertainments. In November 1929 a plan for a Supper and Old Time Dance was carried out. The admission to the Supper and the Dance was 50 cents. As a result of the evening, \$200.00 was paid on the loan. In March 1930 a Calico Ball was held and the profits of the evening were \$74.55. The final effort was a Fowl Supper and Dance in November, the returns from which completed the payments on the loan and brought the first project to a successful conclusion.

During the first year of organization the Club had 42 members on the roll. In June Mrs. P. H. Kennedy was sent as a delegate to the Homemakers' Provincial Convention held in Saskatoon. In June, too, Agnes Cole and Isabel McAdam were sent, with their expenses paid by the Club, to Farm Girls' Week at the University. During this week the girls were given training in leadership and home management. They brought back fine reports and from then on the Club sent either one or two girls whenever it was possible.

Farm Girls' Week

In 1936 Olive Burke was sent to Farm Girls' Week along with Anne Ball of Bounty, who was sent by the Agricultural Society. We were very proud of the girls who made a grand showing in competitions, Olive winning a camera for judging menus and Anne a cash prize for dairy judging.

In 1938 Helen Sibbald and Elva McAdam attended Farm Girls' Week. In 1939 Bertha McAdam was sent, in 1940 Beth Sibbald and in 1941, Grace Tyler attended the classes.

In August of that first year, Miss Abigail DeLury, Director of Women's Work, was welcomed to a meeting. She gave a most helpful address on the origin and work of The Homemakers.

An activity of the winter was the serving of lunches to the boys and instructors of the Farm Boys Stock Judging Classes.

Grandmothers' Day

In July 1930 the Club held its first Grandmothers' Day Program at the home of Mrs. J. Millar. This program proved so popular that it has become a yearly event. In 1932, Mrs. Swain told the story of how she had been present at the celebration of Canada's first Dominion Day. Mrs. Munday from Saskatoon gave an interesting talk on the Eskimos in the far north.

In 1933 Grandmothers' Day was held at the home of Mrs. Court Seay with an attendance of 80 and of this number only 13 were Grandmothers.

In October 1943 Mrs. C. B. Smith presented the Club with an autograph album in which the autographs and pictures of the Grandmothers attending Grandmothers' Day could be kept. Every year since, the signatures of the Grandmothers have been written and a group picture has been taken for the album. It has been the custom to present each Grandmother with a corsage or bouquet of flowers and a small gift as a remembrance of the day.

During the years between 1931-40 local relief work was the chief activity of the Club. Card parties and dances were sponsored to raise money for this work. At Christmas time boxes were packed for needy families in the community.

First Health Centre

In February 1933 the first Health Centre was held under the sponsorship of the Conquest Homemakers' Club. Plans were made for a Dental Clinic to be held one day each month, with the dental work to be done at greatly reduced rates, to the pupils.

Our district is very proud of its cemetery and special days are held each year to keep it in good condition. The Club felt it would like to help in this work and so started to serve lunch to the workers—a custom which was kept up for many years.

Homemakers' Play

IN MARCH 1934 a play "My Wild Irish Rose" was sponsored by the Homemakers. Mrs. Halliday conducted this play and we note that admission was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. In November of 1934 the Homemakers' Library of 250 books was established and this was supplemented from time to time by donations from contributors. The Library was kept in the Post Office and the Club is much indebted to Mr. H. A. Head who acted as librarian. A report on the Library in March 1938 showed that it had proven very popular and that between ten and fifteen books were being read each week. There were at this time some 500 books in the Library, and they were finally sent to the Dundurn Army Camp with the hope that they would bring some pleasure to the boys.

In November 1934 the Rest Room was moved from its location to the lot north of the Red & White Store. It was then rented to Mr. H. M. Betters for a Drug Store. In January 1935 Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Head were named trustees of this property as the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan were not incorporated under the statutes of the province and so could not hold title to property. Mr. Betters occupied the build-

ing for a number of years and when the family moved to Winnipeg it was rented to Mr. N. Johnson, in January 1947, for an Electric Shop.

The Arts and Crafts

THE ARTS AND CRAFTS meeting made history in 1935 with a record attendance of ninety. This program was always very popular and this year was held at the home of Mrs. R. Armstrong. At this meeting "Dollar Dresses" made by girls who had attended the camp school for girls at Elrose were displayed and judged and all were agreed that this school had been really worth while. During the winter the Club sponsored a short course conducted by Miss Edith Rowles. This course was open to the girls and young women of the district—21 girls attended the classes, with 14 taking the entire course.

In 1936 the Conquest Homemakers' Club compiled a Cook Book from the favorite recipes of the ladies. There were 150 books printed and sold at 35 cents each.

A recital by Edna Jacques was sponsored in May 1937 and was much enjoyed by our community.

The Club was successful in backing a dental clinic in September of this year, and much badly needed work was done.

Girls' Short Course

A FIVE DAY "Short Course" for girls was held in the basement of the United Church in February of 1938, with 35 girls attending. The girls from out of town were billeted so that they could have good full days at the Course which gave them help in sewing, cooking, meal planning and knitting.

Mrs. Laura Rose Stephens of Ottawa attended a meeting in July 1939 and addressed the Club. Mrs. Stephens is an aunt of Mrs. A. Forsyth. She told of how she had helped organize the first Women's Institutes in Ontario and of how the motto "For Home and Country" had been chosen. She spoke also of her trip to the Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World held in London, England. The Club were very happy to welcome Mrs. Stephens, who has spent much of her life in the work of Women's Institutes.

Miss May from the University conducted a two day dress making course in October. This additional aid from our Department has helped to keep up a lively interest in the work of the Conquest Homemakers' Club.

In August of 1940 a Pioneer Program was held and plans and suggestions were made for writing the history of our community.

Overseas Parcels

AT CHRISTMAS time boxes of eats and smokes were packed for our boys in service. This project was kept up each year throughout the war.

A Red Cross Carnival was put on in November 1941 and \$100.00 was raised for the Red Cross. During the winter of 1945 the Club served meals at the local bonspiel, and the proceeds of this project were given to the Red Cross. A bushel drive and a concert were also sponsored with the amount of \$346.25 being raised. Quilts were being made by the Club and given to the Red Cross.

First Aid Classes

DURING THE WINTER months of 1943 a First Aid Class was held with forty ladies attending. The lectures and demonstrations were given by Dr. Tufts of Outlook and were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The class met weekly in the radio room of the school. We were pleased to have thirty-one ladies take the exams and receive certificates from The St. John Ambulance Association.

In February 1945 a committee worked on the T. Eaton Company's "Kitchen Improvement Competition" and were happy to win a second prize of \$35.00. The committee was especially grateful to Mrs. Head who wrote the story of the family who were having their kitchen remodelled. Part of the work done by this committee was used as a basis for a program.

Mrs. Steffenishen from the Department was welcomed to a meeting in August, when she gave a demonstration and talk on nutrition. These talks were badly needed as some types of food were difficult to get and others were too expensive. The Homemakers were only too glad of any help they could get which would aid them in their meal planning.

During the war the Club helped with the sale of War Saving Stamps. A special effort was made each Saturday, when girls dressed as Miss Canada sold as many stamps as they could, to shoppers and their friends.

Girls' Courses

A SIX WEEKS Resident Course for girls was planned in December 1945. Arrangements were made to house the girls in the basement of the United Church, where they would have ample space for class rooms and recreation rooms as well. The class was started but the enrolment was not large enough to warrant carrying on the School and the girls were sent to other points.

In July 1948 the Club sent Lorraine McMillan to the Holiday Course at Swift Current. Lorraine felt the course was most helpful and she brought back a fine report telling of work done and recreation enjoyed.

Pioneer History

THE CLUB CONSIDERED the question of the Pioneer History again in September of this year and a new committee headed by Mrs. Edgar Sibbald was named. Mrs. Sibbald and her group went through the information already collected and made plans for obtaining further help. After months of reading, sorting and writing, "The History" was finished and ready to display at the District Convention in 1948. Re-reading and re-writing again became the work of the committee as the Club wished to exhibit "The History" in the Lady Tweedsmuir Competition in 1948. It was decided to print the book and inquiries were made as to how much it would cost. Since the project would require a goodly sum, the Club decided to raise the money before making any further plans. In November 1948 a rummage sale and bazaar followed by a dance were held and the Club were able to take away \$112.00 in a special fund.

At Christmas of 1947 a large box of toys, books, candy and clothing was sent to Kilburn Hall. Each year the Club sends a check of money to the Kilburn Hall Birthday Party.

We welcomed Dr. Snelgrove of the University as a special guest in November. He gave a lecture on Canadian Art and showed some films to illustrate his points. Dr. Snelgrove had some paintings by Saskatchewan artists with him and these were displayed. The Community and High School were invited to this lecture which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Historical Society Convention was held in Regina in 1947 with the Daughters of the Empire. Mrs. Wright of Regina was the Assn. Secy. Country Women of the World Convention was held in Amsterdam in 1947 and was attended by delegates sent by Saskatchewan. The Club was hostess to an international dinner and banquet serving supper to the guests in 1948.

The Ladies' Daughters' Homemakers' Club has been active in work for community advancement. They have sponsored pre-school clinics and other projects. They have also sponsored and talks by speakers. Films have been given. Films on Homemaking have been shown at the meetings and aid

has been given to the local hospitals—both money and supplies. Cash donations have been given to the Tuberculosis and Cancer Funds, Aid to China Fund, British Columbia Relief Fund, Save the Children Fund, Kamsack Relief, Milk for Britain Fund, Christmas Seal Fund and the Pee Wee Hockey Club. In January of 1943 the Club collected 100 pounds of good clothing for the Russian Relief Fund and a donation of money was also given. Each year, the Tag Day for the Blind is sponsored. Fats, unused meat coupons, chamois, leather and fur was collected during the war and sent to various organizations. Donations of money were sent to the Navy League to buy Ditty Bags for the sailors. Each year the club donated at the rate of 50 cents a member to the Special War-time Fund of the Saskatchewan Homemakers.

Many baskets of fruit go out each year to those who are not well or who are shut-ins. At special seasons of the year we especially like to remember the older members of the community. Cards or messages of sympathy are sent to the bereaved. In connection with the work of this committee the work of Mrs. E. Larocque, its convener cannot be overlooked. Mrs. Larocque has done this work faithfully and well for a good many years.

As we bring the history of The Conquest Homemakers' Club up to date, I would like to mention the spirit of our club as expressed by Mrs. Head:

"We're members all of Conquest Club,
Such good sports, everyone.
Just call on one, she'll help you out,
And the work just seems like fun."

This Conquest of Ours

"MAMA, why did they call this town Conquest? Hmm? and why did they build a town right here?" "Oh—Ah, Because they needed stores I guess. Maybe your father could tell you better than I." But father too is vague and uncertain in trying to answer the child.

Thus out of the mouths of the third generation of this CONQUEST OF OURS comes a question that starts us thinking backward to the beginning of our community. We have no written record of pioneer days in this district to refer to, so to find a satisfactory answer to the above question it was necessary to seek out some of the original settlers and ask for information. We sat spellbound as we listened first to one, then to another, tell of their experiences in founding our community.

WE LEARNED the name "Conquest" originated when the settlers found ways and means of getting themselves and belongings from the east to the west bank of the South Saskatchewan River at Outlook. So thrilled were we by these stories that then and there we decided the future generations of Conquest were going to have a written record to refer to whenever they wanted to know the whys and wherefores.

This little booklet is written to make known to our descendants the courage, faith and endurance of brave men and women who faced and conquered pioneer conditions in this new land. To show that the development down through the years to the present day, is a result of the dreams, ambitions, foresight and careful planning of each individual pioneer of the Conquest district.

Early Settlers

IN THE SPRING of the year 1904 the Dominion Government placed before the public for home-

stead entry what is now known as the Fertile Valley District. To give you the story of why each pioneer chose this particular part of the West in which to settle, and their journey here, would be impossible. We have chosen the story of one of the first, and one who perhaps came the farthest, to settle here in Conquest—Mr. Robert Twidale. (Quote) "The year 1903 was, as most of us remember, the entry of the Barr Colonists into Canada in charge of Rev. Mr. Barr and his assistant the Rev. Mr. Lloyd from whom Lloydminster, Sask., received its name. I was living in England at that time and a subscriber to the Sheffield Weekly Telegraph. A man named Hutchinson, a Barr Colonist, was contributing to this paper a very interesting description of the trek of the Colonists to this land of Canada. His articles were so interesting and informative that to my personal knowledge the circulation of this paper was increased by several thousand.

AT THE SAME TIME Britain was being flooded with pamphlets describing the wonderful opportunities for building up a home and a future in Canada. These documents were over the signature of the Hon. Clifford Sifton. In addition Government Representatives were holding meetings explaining conditions in the West with more or less dependable accuracy. One of them, a Mr. A. L. Jury, was billed to hold a meeting in a large hall in Sheffield. I attended this meeting and the hall was packed to the doors. Mr. Jury gave a very interesting address and certainly did his duty as one of those chosen to start the migration of green Englishmen from England to the Canadian Prairies. Since I have been here, I have found he spoke very fairly as to conditions in connection with what we might expect during the homestead days, but one of his remarks which was too big

a mouthful to swallow was, "You just tickle the prairie with a hoe and it will smile back at you with a crop!"

The Beginning

AT THIS TIME I was farming in England and was getting about fed up with it. In renting land we did not pay by a crop sharing system as is the custom here, but in hard cash, and whether the crop was poor or no crop at all the landlord demanded his pound of flesh. As I said before, I was fed up, so when the prospect of owning a bit of God's good earth and a home of my own for \$10 and little extra hard work was presented, I was not long deciding to pack my grip and take a shot at it. There was still another consideration "to wit", the wife's consent, and before I popped the question I was dreading a hundred mile an hour blast of "No!" I was mistaken, for her instant reply was, "I'm ready to go any time." That settled it, so in due time I gave notice that I was quitting the farm, called a sale of farm stock, household goods, etc., and made arrangements for the trip across the ocean. I made a trip to the offices of Dean and Dawson in Sheffield and told them I wanted a whole cabin for our family of four and my brother Fred, and above all a decent boat for the crossing. Dawson said, "We have the very boat for you, the "Parisian." She is called the ladies' boat and steady as old times, just under 6,000 tons displacement." Well of all rollicking, rolling, pitching ladies I ever came in contact with, commend me to the "Parisian." The Atlantic was in a most devilish humor and twice at dinner we found our plates on our laps instead of on the table.

We Reach Canada

WE LEFT ENGLAND May 12th, 1904 and arrived in Canada nine days later. We headed for Saskatoon, Sask., which was very much in the limelight following the advent of the Barr Colonists. On the train coming up to Saskatoon we cooked our own meals on a stove in the tourist car. Arriving at Saskatoon we found part of the railway bridge across the Saskatchewan River had been washed out so we were dumped out in the bush on the Nutana side and were the mosquitoes glad to see us. My next worry was to get a bed and room for mother and the two babies who had had little if any comfort on the train. There were fourteen ferry loads of us to cross over and we were in no shape to join the scramble. Fortunately I had made the acquaintance of a chap named Walton. He said he knew the manager of the Queen's Hotel. If we would keep his grips he would go over on the first load and get rooms for both of us. It worked, and we secured a room.

At Saskatoon the cry was "to Battleford" as the land of promise. We were anxious to get settled, so the Sunday after our arrival my brother Fred and I booked passage with His Majesty's mail democrat. All ready to go, the driver said he had too much mail and wouldn't be able to take any passengers to Battleford—90 miles away. In the end this proved to be a blessing in disguise. Fred and I had unearthed a chap named Peckenaugh, who freighted human beings to Battleford, and he agreed to take us for \$8 each. In the meantime he had secured five other passengers including my friend of 43 years, Wesley Johnston—to whom I still feel indebted for his knowledge of quarter section land marks, good company, etc.

We take up Land

BACK IN SASKATOON we proceeded to interview various land agents, all of whom had the best land and were sure the railroads were coming through their properties. We decided to patronize "Drinkle and Kerr, Saskatchewan Valley Land Co.," and left the following morning for what is now Fertile Valley. On the way we ran into the "Hamiota Bunch," (Geo. McKague, Bill Fletcher, Joe Lorimer, Alex and J. P. Kerr) and we all spent the night in Clancy's shack (14x16) packed pretty close but sheltered. Next morning we started to look for a homestead. Found nothing to suit us up to lunch time but shortly after we came across Mr. Peter Kennedy in his house. We introduced ourselves and Mr. Kennedy said, "Have you found anything suitable?" We said, "No." He turned and looked south, "Have you seen this?" he asked. I shall always give Mr. Kennedy great credit for helping us out for we were suited at once. We headed back to Saskatoon the next morning, our team of bronco ponies making the trip of sixty miles in one day.

The next day we hied to the land office and filed on our homesteads. Then came trouble. We were all anxious to get on the land, there was much to be done before winter set in and not much time to reach to do it. We waited but no reply from the land office headquarters. We finally went back to the Land Office and found our application had been placed in a rack and forgotten. They were not in at once and later in the day came the word that the file and Johnston's application had been processed. We left for Fertile Valley the next morning and on June 24th, 1904 we arrived at our new home to stay." (end of quote).

The Town of 1904

AS OUR HUSBAND READ the early settlers of Fertile Valley came in the spring of 1904 by way of Saskatoon. They travelled in wagons, with horses and oxen, following what was then known

the old "Bone Trail" formerly made by the Indians, to about where Delisle now stands. From there they came by the new trail which closely paralleled the present C.N.R. through Donavon, Swanson and Ardath. This trail was blazed by the Wilson brothers who planted stakes and branches to make a well defined trail. They located north-west of the present town-site and on part of their farm the Fertile Valley cemetery is now located.

While the whole country-side was largely pre-empted that summer the incoming settlers were few. On May 3rd, P. H. Kennedy filed a homestead on N.W. 32-29-9, west of 3rd. This was the first filed in this township. Kenneth Dunbar almost immediately filed the N.E. ¼ of the same section. They were soon followed by C. G. Seay, Chas. Clark, B. Bridgeland, Court Seay, David Clancy, Lawson and Armstrong, and later in June by Robt. Twidale and W. J. Johnston. During the summer Chas. Stevens, Rouleaus, Leppers and Shuttleworths settled in what is now the Ardath district. Between 1905 and 1910 the following settlers arrived: J. P. Kerr; Frank Kerr; A. Amy; Geo. Cavanaugh; S. Swain; C. B. Smith; G. H. McKague; Andy Badger; Miles McKarlie; C. Epps; W. Nisbet; W. Burke; D. Moran; Wm. Johnston; Angus, John and David Smith; Mr. W. Nye; T. E. Pomeroy; Jos. Lorimer; A. E. Barrett; E. M. Axness; F. Jones; Dr. Wray; Wm. Fletcher; Wm. McMillan; A. Gilchrist; N. Gilchrist; R. Huxtable; J. Welch; Geo. Henderson; J. A. McCuaig; R. T. and J. F. Sibbald; Jos. Dishaw; R. Anderson; Mr. Kasserman; C. J. McMillan; Arthur Balkwill; T. C. and R. Hornby.

These early settlers were mostly from Ontario and Manitoba with the occasional one from England, Ireland and Scotland.

Saskatchewan Brick

AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE houses were built. The task of getting habitable buildings for man and beast was a heavy one. Lumber was dear to buy and had to be drawn a long distance. Notwithstanding this, a number of pioneers built frame houses. A few of the houses and most of the stables were built of sod. This was really an art and heavy work too. Settlers jokingly called the material "Saskatchewan Bricks". Sods were cut with the plow 12 to 14 inches wide, 4 inches thick and 2 or 3 feet long, and were taken from a low spot where the earth was moist and tough. Walls were laid just as a mason builds a brick wall, openings were fitted with small sash windows, the insides finished with building paper. These buildings were warm in winter, cool in the summer but were dark and hard to keep clean. However, the settlers thought they were cosy and fit for a king. There were very few log buildings, owing to the scarcity of trees within reach. There was a limited amount of poplar along the river, in

the sand hills to the north, and at Red Deer Lake to the south. Most of the settlers had to depend on this fuel, although it was obtained only by hard work and journeys of twelve to fifteen miles. Mosquitoes were terrible and pestered the stock. Smudges were burned in the evenings and how the poor dumb animals knew enough to assemble in the smoke was amazing, but they did.

One leading pioneer, Mr. Robert Twidale, decided to plant some trees. His neighbor Mr. P. Kennedy turned the sod for him. Mr. Twidale getting trees from Smithville, near Saskatoon, for this purpose. His was the first bluff or shelter belt planted in this district. Since that time almost every farmer has planted one. In February, 1905 Mr. Twidale went to Hanley and hauled home lumber to build a "big" granary. It was in this building that church services were first held. In this year also Chas. Clark built a two-story frame house two miles west of the present town site, and for two years ran a "Stopping House." Although not a large home, they sometimes had as many as twenty-four people sleeping there over-night, using straw mattresses on the floor for extra beds. For bed and breakfast they charged twenty-five cents.

Early Worship

THE FIRST EVENT of a community nature was the organization of a mission and Sunday School in June 1905, in this case Presbyterian, with Mr. Thomas Kirkpatrick, a student minister in charge. Place of meeting, Mr. Twidale's granary. Church services have been held at Conquest without interruption ever since. (Excerpt from Mr. Kirkpatrick's Memoirs)—"Although an Anglican himself, Mr. Twidale willingly gave his new granary for the use of the Presbyterian cause for the fortnightly services. This is only one of many of Mr. Twidale's public spirited acts during the past many years. Just before this preaching station was opened the settlement was considerably augmented by a group of people from Hamiota, who were enterprising and public spirited. They in particular gave the church cause good support. At times on Sunday afternoon as many as eighty people gathered. The pulpit was a little table and the seats mostly planks and bags of grain but the people thoroughly enjoyed it. The part of the service that most impressed me was the hearty singing of the familiar hymns. In great churches since attended, I have not heard more heart-stirring singing." (end of quote).

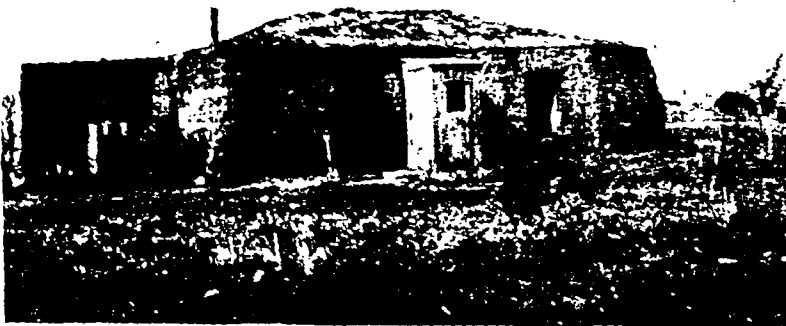
Mr. Rouleau also held Baptist services in Rouwouth school, three miles north of the present village of Conquest, a few months later.

Copy of minutes of Organization of Sunday School, June 11th, 1905:

"About thirty people assembled for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School, Mr. Thomas



Off to the Homestead



Sod shack on Cal Seay's homestead. Used later for first Post Office in 1907.



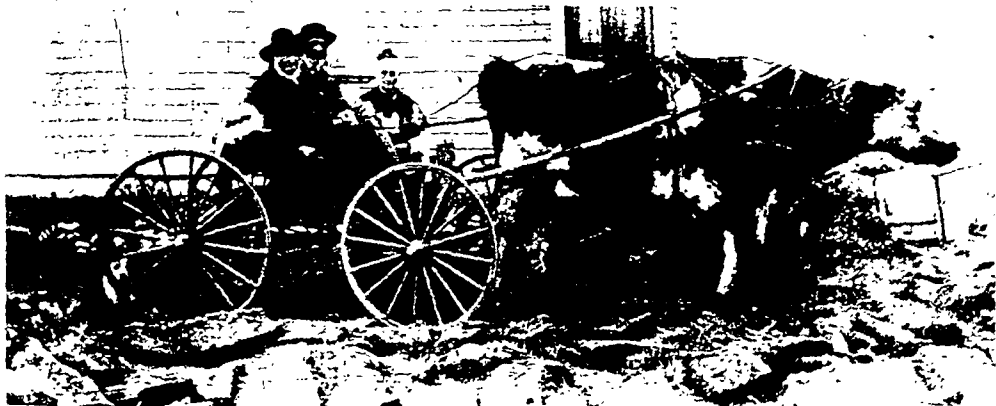
Homesteader's Well.



Homesteader's Gate.



The Balkwill farm home built in 1905, and still in use.



Homesteader's Method of Travel.

Kirkpatrick in the chair. By an unanimous vote it was decided to proceed with business of organizing immediately and also to accept Mr. Twidale's offer of the use of the building, it being considered most suitable and central. Moved by W. J. Johnston, seconded by Mr. C. Sutton that P. H. Kennedy be secretary pro-tem. Carried. Moved by G. H. McKague, seconded by A. Kerr that the school be a Union Sunday School. Carried. Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by R. Twidale that G. H. McKague be superintendent, carried. Mr. McKague accepted. On motion of C. Sutton and G. H. McKague, Mr. P. H. Kennedy was elected secretary-treasurer. Moved by G. H. McKague, seconded by Mr. Sutton that we begin our school with three teachers, primary, intermediate and Bible class." Carried. (End of copy.)

The First Crop

THE FALL OF 1905 brought the first real returns for the settlers and from the small acreage under cultivation good yields were received, among which were the following: Smith harvested 300 bus. of wheat from six acres, while R. Twidale got 711 bus. of oats from seven acres sown. It was in this year that the first threshing machine visited the district. Mr. McGann of Saskatoon bringing it out. Rather than let the machine leave the district Geo. Cavanaugh and W. J. Johnston purchased the outfit.

Mr. McKague contributed much to the community life of the settlement. In 1905 at his call, a meeting took place to arrange a picnic which was held at Twidales'. All the settlers were there and it was a huge success. It wound up in the evening with an entertainment at which several of the men made speeches, Joe Lorimer, Alex and J. P. Kerr and Mr. Twidale.

In 1906 a second picnic was held at Twidale's on June 9th to commemorate the day the settlers first viewed their homesteads. A Baby Show afforded quite an amusing incident, little Edith Balkwill winning the gold brooch as first prize. The local baseball team won their first victory at this picnic. J. Lorimer and A. Balkwill formed the battery and the curves and spit balls thrown were terrific. It is also interesting to note that at this picnic the district was dubbed "Fertile Valley" due to the heavy growth of prairie wool, and has proven to be a very consistent name.

Community Life

IT WAS FELT that some of the folks from the West had a long journey home at night so it was decided to hold the third picnic in 1907 at the home of C. Sutton, about one mile north of the

present site of Bounty. Several hundreds congregated, coming in vehicles of various sorts drawn by horses, mules or oxen. They had football and most of the events in the Caledonian category, including a tug-o-war, (which ended in a fight) and rifle shooting (ladies), Mrs. Bridgeland had high score. Catching the greasy pig was another event. The members of Parliament, the Hon. W. C. Sutherland for Saskatoon and the Hon. W. E. Knowles for Moose Jaw attended, also representatives of the C.P.R., and this may have had an influence in charting the route of the Moose Jaw-Macklin branch of the C.P.R. through this part of the country.

Reading from Mr. Sutton's "The Evolution of the Fertile Valley" in Nov. 20th issue of The Enterprise, we find that "The winter of 1904 was a very mild one," he says, but admits there were storms and the temperature may have dropped pretty low. "There were no thermometers, consequently, the cold was not felt **very much**." Anyway a warm spell set in about the third week in February and on some farms all the wheat was sown by March 5. Reading on, Mr. Sutton says: "The crop was encouraging and the sample excellent, practically all the wheat grading No. 1 and when hauled to Saskatoon 76 miles away, realized the magnificent price of .52 cents a bushel." The wise ones were those who grew oats, P. H. Kennedy and Mr. R. Twidale, for they sold their grain for .50 cents a bushel right off the ground and were considered 'millionaires'.

School Opens

THE FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT to be formed was Warminster in 1905, north-east of town, and a school erected. Following in quick succession were Rouworth in the north (named after the Rouleau and Shuttleworth families) and Hassock in the north west in 1906. Layfield in the south, was formed in 1907 with R. E. Twidale, Wes. Johnston and P. H. Kennedy the first board of trustees. From the stories told of 'what we did when we went to school,' we have concluded that the present generation are novices at thinking up ways and means of torturing the teacher.

First school report published from Layfield school in 1912 gave a list of pupils as follows:

Grade VI—Andrew Murchison, Roy Balkwill, Otter Johnston, Jean Driscoll, Vera Balkwill, Charlie Wilson, Vernon Hampton, Irene McLaughlin, Sam Wilson.

Grade V—Olive White, Albert Frumerie.

Grade III—Kate Twidale, Lila Johnston, George Britnell, Wilfrid McLaughin, Charlie Kasserman.

Grade II—Ida Balkwill, Aylmer Kerr, Allen Snider, Lorne Anderson, Annie Twidale, Olive Snider, Roy Kasserman.



First Mail to Conquest.



First Council Meeting.



First C.P.R. Train in Conquest.



Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Kennedy on whose homestead Conquest now stands.



C.P.R. Bridge at Outlook 1912.

Grade I—Willie Gilchrist, Alex Johnston, Doris LeBaron, Margaret Henderson, Nellie Britnell.

Grade I Jr.—May Henderson, Bernard LeBaron, Lily Gilchrist, Edith Balkwill, Fred Kasserman, Frank Britnell, and Charlie White. Teacher: M. J. A. Holland.

A Local Improvement District was organized in 1906. Isaac McAdam, Reeve and Charles Hornby Sr., Secretary-treasurer.

Community Life

THE FERTILE VALLEY SETTLERS were good church goers and services were now held in the various schools. Everyone went to church, unless ill or out of the country, and those present discussed the reason of absentees. Men gathered in little groups, talked of their week-day operations. Women too had their chats. It was amazing how many quarts of those little wild strawberries some of those women had stored in those dug-out cellars. Everyone took their stamped letters to church, hoping to find someone who might be going to the Post Office early in the week—for it was forty miles away at Hanley in 1907. The way in which mail was received was no hit-or-miss program. Practicing co-operation, ten or twenty homesteaders had written plans when each took his turn for going for the mail once a week. The mail was all taken to one home, in one case J. P. Kerr's, another A. Quibell's "Lorimerville", and the rest made a little trip there to get their own mail. Needless to say everyone looked forward to mail day. The "Fertile Valley" Post Office was established in 1907 in Mr. C. G. Seay's sod house on his homestead with Mr. Seay as postmaster. In 1911 this office was moved to the A. E. Barrett store on the corner of the P. Kennedy farm 32-29-9. The name of the post office was later changed to Conquest. Mr. Seay continued as postmaster as long as he lived—1933,—being succeeded by Mr. Head who still serves in that capacity.

The little blacksmith shops also played an important part in the life of the community. Everyone wasn't fortunate enough to have one, so he would just go over to his neighbors. Plow shares had to be sharpened often and one forge and anvil would serve half a dozen farmers. The work was done mostly in the evenings, and the visiting done by the homesteaders in those little old sod shops far exceeded all that ever took place in the houses by the women. If the man of the house was missing at bed time it was a safe bet some neighbor had arrived with plow shares. The drinking water was a problem. If fortunate in getting a good well, that was fine, if not the old horse or ox with a barrel or two on a stoneboat made a trip to a more fortunate neighbor who had a well. Wash water was mostly hauled from sloughs which seemed to have water all summer.

A grievous trial of the pioneer housewife was the periodic 'pesty' appearance of parasites—three kinds—any of which might be left by 'over night stoppers, staying behind in the blankets or the bed they had shared. Sometimes Pop made a trip to Saskatoon and had to spend the night at a 'stopping house'. He occasionally, unwittingly, carried off a few specimens who immediately made themselves at home in the families' heads, underwear, houses and beds of the new victims. Mom would have to apply the necessary antidote, sabadilla if on the head, boiling wash for the crawling under-shirt and vigilant search and very constant watchfulness, pin in hand, to mount the flat, red, smelly little bed bugs to the walls.

Wedding Bells

Copied from Rev. R. B. Beavis Records.

“THE FIRST MARRIAGE celebration west of the river took place at the home of Rev. Beavis, Sec. 30, T28, R.9, W.3rd, Red Deer Lake, on August 7th, 1907, when Duncan C. Moran and Miss Maggie Smith, both of Fertile Valley, were united in marriage by the missionary, Rev. R. B. Beavis. Those present were: Mrs. Beavis, Miss E. T. Beavis, Max, Ford and Douglas Beavis and the two witnesses, Neil Gilchrist, cousin of the groom, and Miss Jessie Cooper, later Mrs. Neil Gilchrist. Mr. Moran later died with the flu' in 1919. Their daughter Emily was at one time a teacher in Red Deer Lake School.” (End of copy.)

In the fall of 1907 a disastrous prairie fire from the west swept the district. Only by quickly plowing fire-guards were the settlers able to save themselves and buildings. The fire could be seen coming towards them for hours and when it swept on left in its path a dismal black world behind it for months.

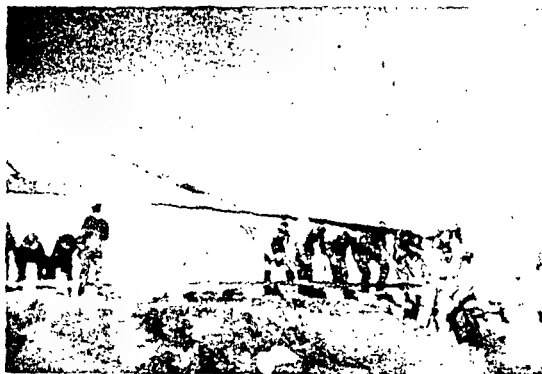
Sunday School Records

THE FOLLOWING is taken from copies of the first and second annual meetings of the Fertile Valley Sunday School:

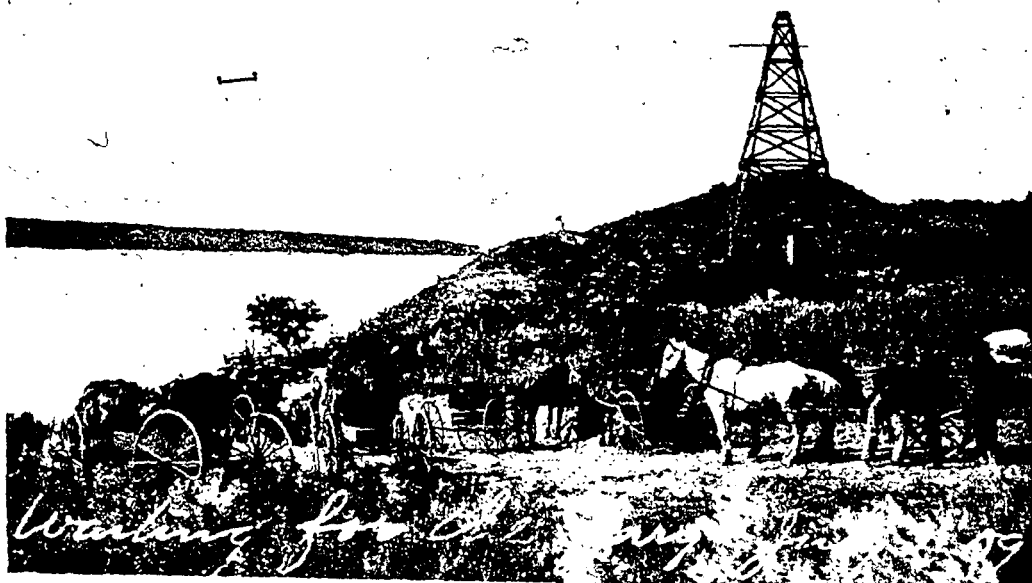
Oct. 6th, 1906—Mr. J. P. Kerr in the chair, P. Kennedy, secretary. Election of officers. Superintendent Mr. W. Fletcher, Bible Class teacher Mr. McKague. Primary, Mrs. McKague. List of supplies amounting to \$12.39 was ordered from David C. Cook Co.

1907—Supt. Mr. W. Fletcher, Sec.-Treas. Wes Johnston. Bible Class, W. A. Kennedy; Primary, Mrs. F. Kerr; Organist, Miss E. McKague.

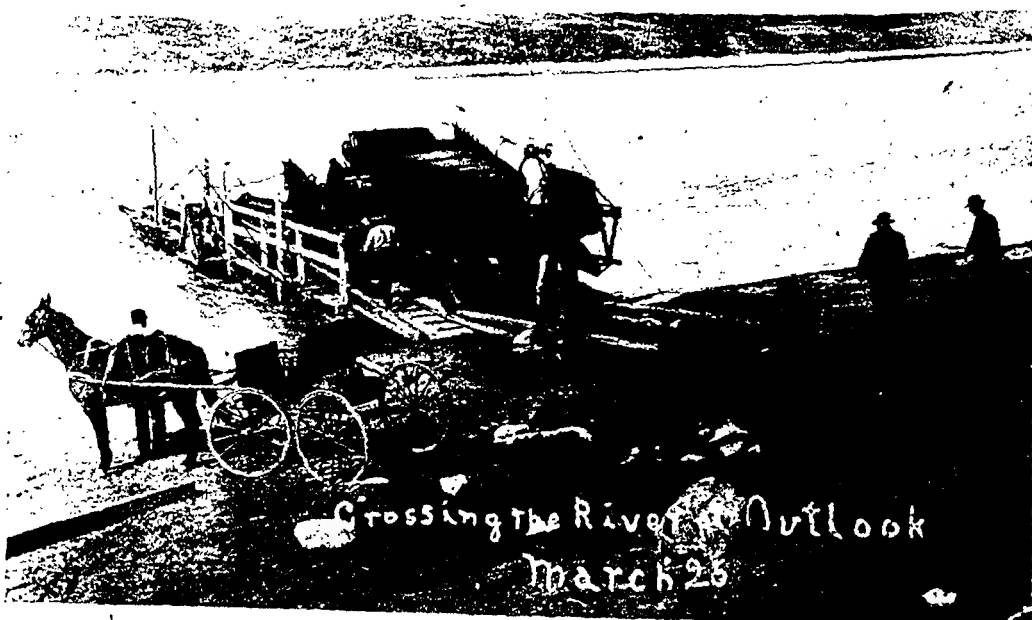
June 4th, 1908—A meeting held in Layfield school formed a committee to buy an organ. Committee—Mr. J. Cady, J. Lorimer, Wm. Flet-



Steel Laying in 1911.



Waiting for the Ferry—July 2, 1909.



Crossing the River at Outlook, March 25, 1910.

cher. Moved by P. H. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. McAdam that committee hold organ until paid for. Moved by Mr. McKague, seconded by A. Balkwill that when organ is paid for it becomes the property of the Layfield School. Carried.

The spirit of co-operation was very strong in the minds of these settlers. In March of 1908 they organized a "Lorimer Grain Cleaning Co.," and bought a fanning mill. Manager I McAdam, Treasurer P. Kennedy. Other members being J. Lorimer, G. H. McKague, A. Balkwill, Geo. Henderson, W. Fletcher, C. J. McMillan, R. Twidale, Fred Twidale, W. J. Johnston and K. Dunbar.

(Copy of receipt for mill)

Hanley, Sask., March 19/08.

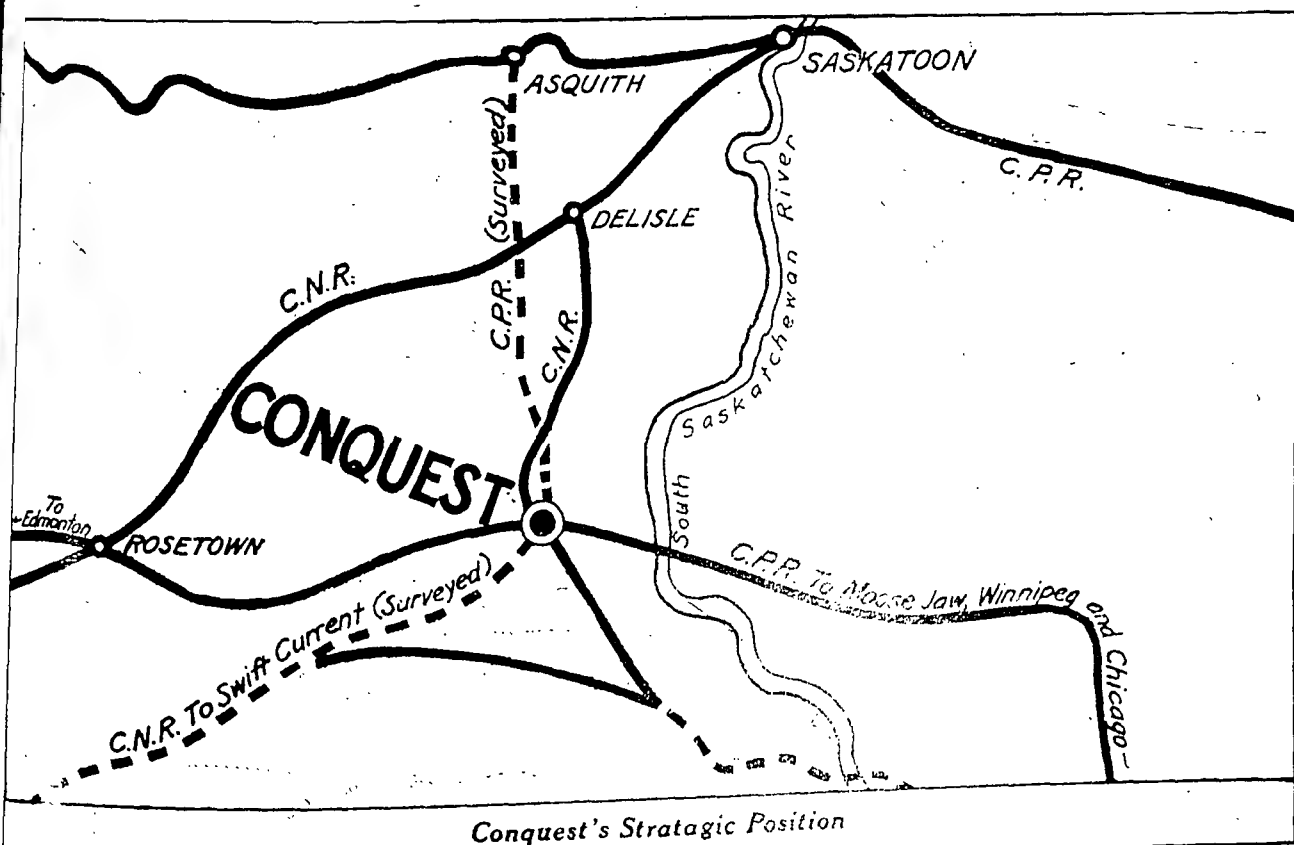
Received from P. Kennedy, thirty-eight dollars, payment in full for fanning mill. \$38.00.

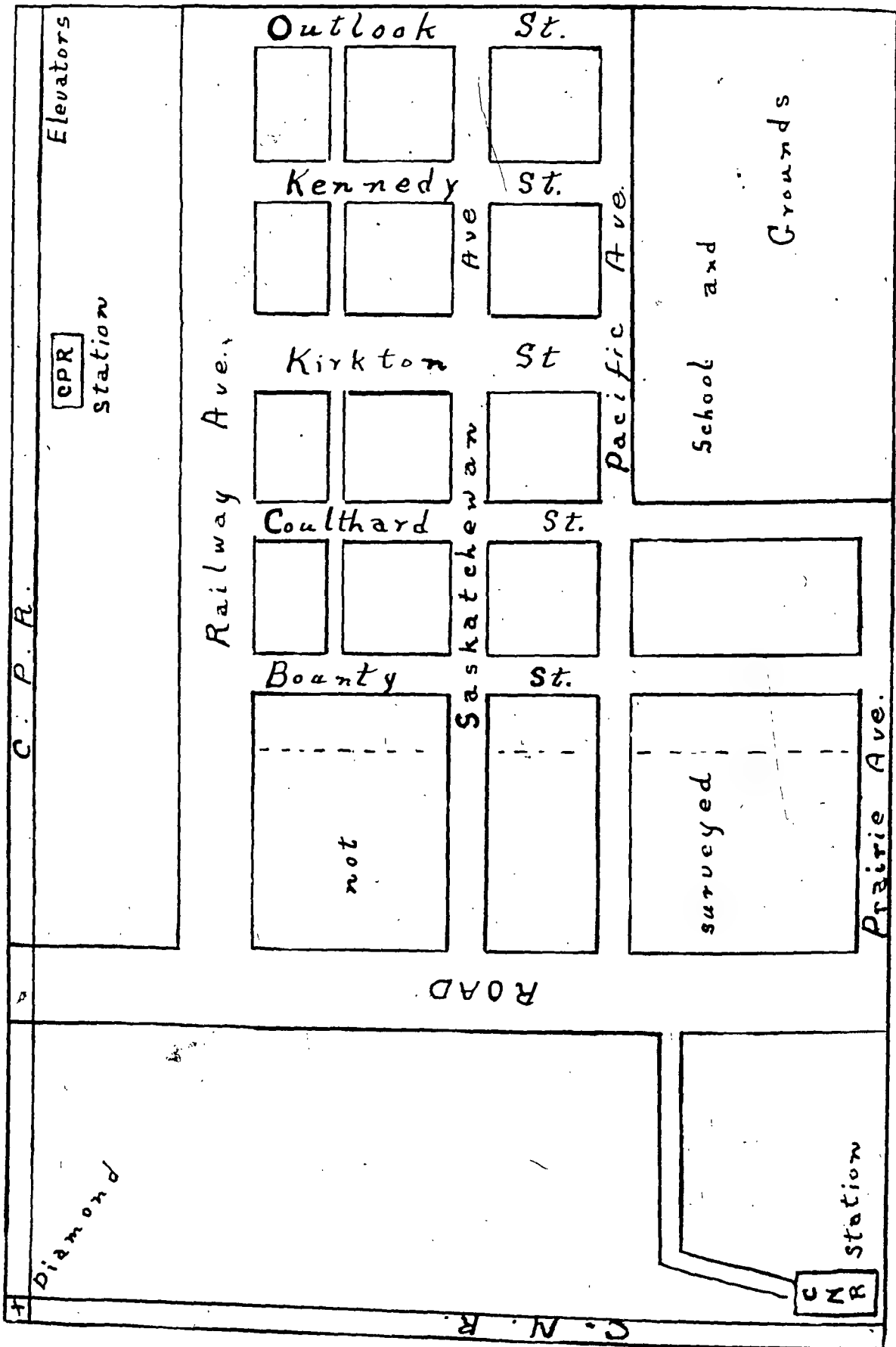
John Ames.

The Doctor Arrives

IN 1908 Dr. Wray arrived in the district, and built an office on the north east corner of Bruce Johnson's farm.

To get supplies in those early days, settlers had to make a trip to Saskatoon or Hanley and usually brought back enough dried fruit, flour, sugar, salt, matches, yeast cakes, tea, coffee, bacon and ham to last them six months. At that time bacon was .12 cents a pound, ham .17 cents. It was a big help to the farmers when H. H. Davidson established a small grocery business on the south east corner of Mr. C. G. Seay's homestead.





Regina, Sask., October 24th, 1911.

Erection of The Village of Conquest

The requirements of The Village Act in respect of the erection into a village under the said Act of that portion of the Province of Saskatchewan hereinafter described, having been complied with and no sufficient cause having been shown against such erection:

I DO HEREBY DECLARE, that portion of the Province of Saskatchewan bounded as follows, that is to say: That portion of the North-east quarter of section Thirty-one (31) township Twenty-nine (29) Range Nine (9) West of the Third Meridian lying east of the Canadian Northern Railway Track, and the whole of the North-west quarter of section Thirty-two (32) Township Twenty-nine (29) Range Nine (9) West of the Third Meridian to be erected a village under The Village Act.

I fix Tuesday the Seventh day of November, 1911, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon (Mountain Standard Time) at Conquest, as the day, hour and place of meeting for the nomination of candidates for election as members of the council.

Attention is called to section 60 of The Village Act which is as follows:

"In the event of more than the required number of persons being nominated, the returning officer will declare that a poll shall be held, and shall name the time (which shall be on the same day of the week as the nomination but in the next week following) and the place where the votes are to be polled, and also the time and place at which the polling will be declared."

I appoint George Barwell of Conquest, Saskatchewan to act as returning officer at such election.

I fix Saturday, the Eighteen day of November 1911, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon (Mountain Standard Time) at Conquest as the day, hour and place for the first meeting of the council.

Dated at Regina, this 24th day of October 1911.

(Signed) A. P. McNab,

Minister of Municipal Affairs.

John McIntosh,

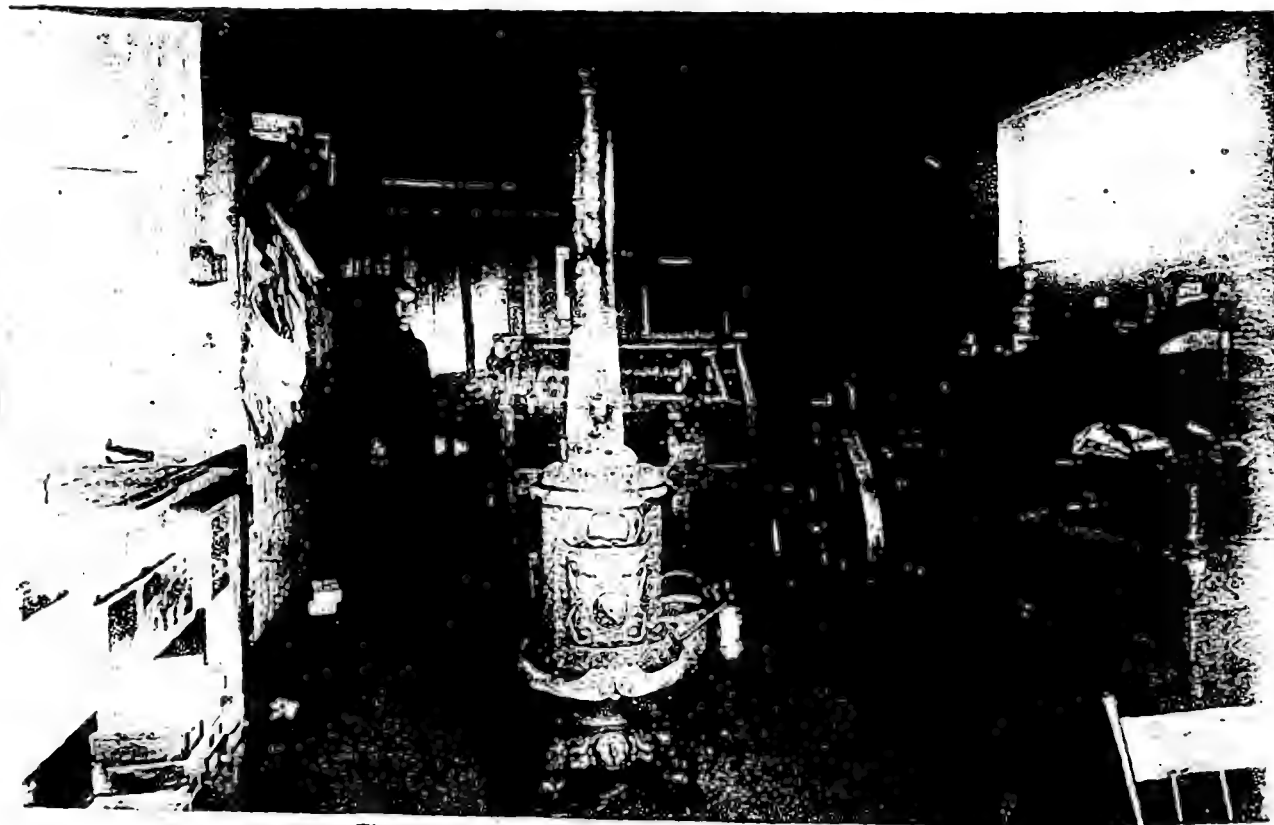
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Certified a true copy.

Regina, Sask., March 2nd, 1949.



Main Street of Conquest, 1912.



The first printing equipment used by Henry Head

Rail Surveys Start

THE YEAR 1910 brought many new developments. It was an early spring, some farmers seeding on April 2nd. Both C.P.R. and C.N.R. were interested in getting in a road and numerous surveys were made and stakes set out. Settlers were thrilled with anticipation. To the pioneers who have homesteaded and lived on the prairie for years, the surveying of a railway is interesting, grading of railbed more interesting, and this interest increases as the steel is laid. The first train that comes puffing in might be considered the climax.

Both the C.P.R. coming east from Kerrobert toward Outlook, and the C.N.R. coming south from Saskatoon, were working in haste to get their roads through, the C.N.R. surveying their road about one mile west of the present town. On May 2nd the C.P.R. purchased a town site, it being the homestead of Peter Kennedy, N.W. 14 22-29-9. The purchaser was Mr. Couillard, C.P.R. representative, travelling by automobile, which was quite a novelty on the prairies. Mr. A. E. Barrett erected a store on the corner of the Kennedy farm, as the town lots weren't surveyed till September. (This is now the site of Mrs. H. Nisbet's home.) He later moved it to Kirkton Street. Other buildings erected were the Geo. Barwell house and the carpenter shop. Dr. Wray's office was moved in from three miles west. As the town of Outlook had appeared on the map in 1903 and the C.P.R. steel now ran from Moose Jaw there, lumber for these buildings was brought from Outlook. Often there was much delay at the ferry, and on very windy days or shifting sand bars, no crossing at all.

On September 27th, 1910 the C.P.R. town site surveyors camped on section 5, north of town and surveyed the town lots. The Village of Conquest is situated 128 miles north west of Moose Jaw on the C.P.R. and 60 miles south west of Saskatoon on the C.N.R.

Village Government

THE OVERSEERS of the Village from 1910 to the present day have been:

F. H. Jones	1912-1914
J. Murchison	1914-1926
E. E. Martin	1926-1939
E. Larocque	1940-1948

On February 24, 1911 the first load of lumber for the Imperial Lumber Co., landed in Conquest. A month later the company's manager, Mr. Cantrell and family moved in—the first to reside in Conquest. In March Mr. Dan Kennedy hauled lumber from Outlook to build a small real estate office. The town lots were sold from this office. It was also used as a council chamber for the Rural

Municipality until 1923. Reeve, I. McAdam; Secretary, C. Hornby, Sr.. The Fertile Valley Councilors were these: W. T. Hall, O. J. Farden, M. Lamont, P. Hopkins, A. W. Badger and G. P. Schwartz. The Fertile Valley Municipality was formed in 1911. The following are the Reeves:—

I. McAdam	1910-1911
A. G. Hopkins	1912
I. McAdam	1913
A. Barwell	1914
H. A. Metcalfe	1915-1917
B. T. Stohal	1918-1921
P. H. Kennedy	1922-1927
W. A. Johnson	1928-1929
A. Quibell	1930
O. Cole	1931-1932
H. W. Ellis	1933-1934
H. Brimell	1935-1945
Wm. McMillan	1946-1948

On March 20th the first Methodist service was held in Barrett's store. Mrs. Barrett played the piano, upstairs, for hymns, the minister and people were downstairs, seated on planks and packing boxes.

First Mail Arrives

ON APRIL 4TH 1911 the first mail arrived for 'Conquest Post Office' in a three decked wagon piled high with mail bags, as there had been no river crossing for several days. Hitherto the mail had come to Fertile Valley Post Office at C. G. Scay's. In May Mr. R. G. Barwell and Mr. Joe Dushaw bought lots for the Baptist Church, later the Gospel Hall and now Mrs. Parker's Beauty Shop. On May 10th, Mr. John Murchison of Guelph, Ont., bought lots and erected a hardware store with the public hall overhead, which gave good service for many years. Church services were held there until the Union Church was built in 1916. Mr. W. E. Jackson bought the Murchison building in 1928 and it along with Mr. Barrett's store was destroyed by fire in 1938.

The Steel Arrives

ON JUNE 5TH 6 men were organized to canvass the country for a Rural Telephone Company. All this time the construction gangs were working on the railway lines, the C.N.R. succeeded in getting theirs to Conquest first and were hauling out wheat as early as June 15th, 1911. There was still no depot and no rules for securing a car, just a mad scramble to claim one and throw in a bag of wheat. This gesture was recognized as evidence of possession. Peter Kennedy has the honor of loading the first car of wheat in Conquest.



Union Church, built during pastorate of Rev. C. S. Elsey, 1916—Rev. D. J. Scott, Minister.



Church Junior Choir.



Remembrance Day 1946.



Union Church 1947—Rev. McIntyre, Minister.

In the meantime the C.P.R. had graded their line, the steel-laying machine coming in from the West. On reaching the intersection and having the right of way, they lifted the C.N.R. rails and laid their own through as far as Conquest, for as yet there was no bridge across the river to connect with Outlook. In order to enable trains to get back to Kerrobert a Y was made on Section 5, north of town in October 1911. This was in use until the bridge was built in 1912. In later years a creamery was built on this spot but that too is a thing of the past. After the C.P.R. laid their steel, the first southbound C.N.R. was forced to stop a mile north of the intersection and return to Saskatoon. As a temporary expedient to accommodate later trains the C.N.R. grade was built high enough with ties to permit their rails being laid over top of of the C.P.R. rails. Thus serviced, the C.N.R. train passed over, the rails afterwards removed. Under this difficulty the C.N. operated until they built the permanent diamond some weeks later. It was their responsibility too, to deliver the mail and passengers from the C.N. station into town. For years Mr. and Mrs. Bôb McLaughlin held this contract, later followed by Bruce Grant.

Up to this time there was only one mail a week but on August 31st, 1911, mail began coming three times a week. The same fall the town had its first wedding, that of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones. In this year also three big Rumley outfits came into the district, owned by J. Lorimer, Court Seay and R. Kennedy. Cook cars and bunk cars were built to accompany the outfits. G. H. McKague bought a car, the first in the district.

On October 21, 1911, a grand concert was held in Murchison's Hall with the Toronto Male Quartette, Ruthven McDonald and other visiting artists.

Conquest Grows

DURING THE SUMMER many new buildings were built. They seemed to spring up like mushrooms. The businesses in operation at this time were:

Draying and Teaming, Larocque Bros. Drug Store, D. Lewis. Imperial Lumber Co., F. H. Jones. Lumber Yard, Axness Bros. Co., The Pioneer Store. A. E. Barrett. Contractor and Builder, W. E. Conlin. White Star General Store, Geo. Rouleau and Geo. Barwell. Western Canada Saw Mills, A. P. McNaughton. General Store, John Driscoll. Conquest Hotel, C. E. Hodgins. Hardware Store, Pattison and Gunn. Real Estate and Insurance, C. G. Seay. Livery and Feed Stable, W. Stonehouse. Draying and Teaming, Sam Anderson. Massey-Harris Co., Geo. Cavanaugh, Agent. Hardware Store, John Murchison. Royal Bank of Canada, H. G. Lyons, Manager. Imperial Oil Co., G. J. Owens. Ogilvie Flour Mill Elevator. Medical Doctor, Dr. Wray. Auctioneer, G. H. McKague. Conquest Enterprise, H. A. Head.

The Union Church

Taken from November 20th Enterprise, 1913—re Union Church Movement.

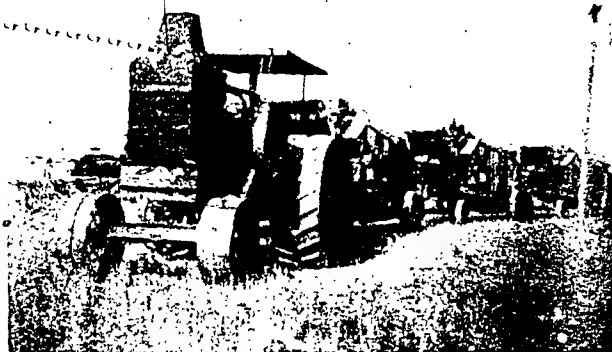
AS THE PROSPECTS of having a town founded in our midst grew bright, the idea, that soon we would be worshipping under our own particular denominational vine and fig tree, began to present itself. As it involved the breaking up of our Congregational Unit into its denominational parts, it brought little joy, rather the contrary. It raised the question, "If we can neighbour together and do business together, why can't we worship together?" Someone said, "We can, if we are willing to pay the price." So a committee of appraisal was appointed which after many meetings and much thought decided that two ways lay open to us: to work together under the co-operating committee of the three churches negotiating union, or, to break away from all denominational attachment and become an independent congregation on the lines laid down as the basis suggested for the three negotiating churches. Option one, did not appeal to us, (says the article) as it seemed to place all the sacrifices upon the shoulders of the minority who would render a somewhat lukewarm support to the cause, and be ready to fall away for causes real or imaginary. On the other hand, option two appealed strongly to our imaginations. The idea 'took'. It involved sacrifices along these lines, first, denomination sacrifices because we would sever these connections, becoming entirely independent; fraternal sacrifices because being of no denomination we would be outside the interest of any; and financial sacrifices, because having cut ourselves off we must foot our own bills. No more Missionary grants—and no building funds to be drawn upon for 'loans'. For the financing of the scheme we would be entirely upon our own resources. However, it was felt, that the objects to be obtained—the organized union of the denominational elements in the community, securing for ourselves and pastor, who, residing among us would be able to minister most effectively to our needs, and the increased attractiveness of our services were worth the sacrifices we were likely to be called upon to make. So in July 1911, the Union Church, Conquest, was formally organized along the lines laid down in the basis for the Union of the three negotiating churches. Thus we became an independent Union Congregation and this we propose to remain until the consummation of general organized Union, when we expect to unite with and become a part of the United Church.

Rev. L. L. Meech Called

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES were being held in the school, and Methodist services in Conquest. On October a call was given Rev. Meech, who accepted and became pastor of Conquest Union Church. His first residence was the



Cook Car.



Rumley Outfits being brought in.



One of the first Ladies' Aid Societies.



One of the first cars in the district, E. M. Axness.



*Soda Biscuit Contest: Mrs. Forysthe, Mrs. Fletcher
Mrs. J. P. Kerr, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. F. L. Kerr.*

little green cottage now occupied by Mrs. A. Clark. The manse was built in 1912 and though it was not all easy sailing, the article ends with these words: "pending general union, we are connected with the parent churches through a committee, and have by some years, anticipated the general organized union of these three denominations, to which so many good people have for so long been looking forward." Ardath built their church in 1913 with the Rev. Heathfield, pastor in charge. Rev. C. W. Brown of Saskatoon was guest speaker and the Conquest Choir and Quintette were in attendance at the fowl supper following the dedication. The beautiful church here was built in 1916, and in 1924 Ardath, Bounty and Conquest formed a circuit with the minister residing in Conquest as the central point, and this arrangement is still in force.

The new two-storey hotel was opened with a big dance on January 1st, 1912, weather was very cold -51 degrees below zero. In the early years the citizens of Conquest carried drinking water in pails from shallow wells on the Kennedy homestead. In 1913 the town decided to drill a well and have an adequate supply of water, centrally located. This 'operation' required dynamite for blasting rock and a quantity was procured. It was then decided that this dangerous explosive should not be stored on the townsite overnight. After due deliberation, a delegation carried it, oh-so-carefully over to P. H. Kennedy's stable, placed it up on a shelf, then proceeded to the house and reported to his wife the precaution they had taken for the safety of the villagers.

Ladies' Aid Organized

ON FEBRUARY 7TH, 1912, the Union Church Ladies' Aid was organized with Mrs. Meech president; Mrs. McKague, Vice-President; Mrs. W. A. Kennedy, Secretary; and Mrs. I. McAdam, Treasurer. On February 27th, the first baby was born in Conquest, to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hornby. April 28th, Jean Kennedy was the first baby baptized in the Union Church. The service was held in Murchison's Hall and the Rev. L. L. Meech presented Jean with a Bible. In May the community commenced building the church barn, 24x84 feet. It served as a dining hall for the first sports day the town put on. The sports were held on the prairie north of the tracks.

In July, 1912, the Conquest Rural Telephone Company was organized with Mr. Grif. Owens at Central. He held this position until 1917 and was followed by the Wm. Smith family who still serve the community as Central. In this year also the Fertile Valley Agricultural Society was formed with Bruce E. Johnson as president and Ed. Matheson, Secretary-Treasurer. In October of 1912 the C.P.R. bridge at Outlook was finished and the " " north of town dispensed with.

On November 1st, 1912, the first issue of the

Conquest Enterprise came off the press, and the following is the history of the paper.

The "Enterprise" Is Born

CONQUEST VILLAGE was incorporated in 1911, and as the new village began to feel "growing pains" an eye was kept open and an ear tuned to the prospect of having one of the great assets of any community locate in our midst. The hope was realized in the fall of 1912 when Mr. Heddesheimer "dropped out of the blue sky" into a Board of Trade meeting being held in Axness Bros. office. Mr. Heddesheimer had learned, while in Harris, (a neighboring town) that there was a possible opening for a printing office in the new town, and taking opportunity by the forelock, had driven across the thirty miles of country to look things over. It was at this meeting that Conquest first met "Heinie" (as those at the meeting will remember "for short") and sufficient encouragement was given to warrant Mr. Heddesheimer's making a trip to Winnipeg to secure equipment. While waiting for the material to arrive, an office was constructed facing Coulthard Street, opposite where Mr. Bennett's garage now stands. The budding editor did a turn in the harvest fields, and to this day can remember some of the luscious raisin pie served at the Wes. Johnston farm. The Ladies' Aid contracted to secure subscriptions for the new paper, and the first issue rolled off the press in the wee small hours of November 1st, 1912, with Messrs. A. E. Barrett, Emil Axness and H. G. Lyons sitting up to watch the first edition emerge, and secure copies of the same.

The "Conquest Enterprise" took its place in community life and its policy was one to assist all efforts for the benefit of the community. It was forced to add new type almost at once in order to cope with the demands for work, and to this was added the equipment of the "Bounty Advocate" thus setting the groundwork for what later became one of the best equipped offices in rural Saskatchewan. It published a second paper "The Ardath Advance" which was edited by Pat Lench of that town. With the outbreak of the war the editor felt the call to the colors, and made a first attempt to enlist with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, but was turned down. He was then recruited in the 123rd Battalion, and served on the front line service.

Rehearsal for the new venture, he was able to secure a printing press. Gardiner Smith, who had been in the printing business in Harris, was turned to for advice. Pressure was turned on to secure new equipment to replace some of the old. A new press was purchased and a new press was the first investment. The installation of a



Grade VIII Class of 1931. 100% honors. Teacher, Bob Arn. Harry Temple, Joyce Bennett, Lillian Hudson, Edna Cole, Lenore Rouleau, Mary McMillan, Elva Amy, Ida Sibbald, Kelly Kerr, Bert Snider, Art Laroque, Frank Tyler, Warren Mann, Lloyd Lorimer, Neil Smith, Earl Johnston Bruce Bartindale.



Conquest School Grounds, 1949.



Conquest School, 1949.



Conquest School 1916.

linotype. In an effort to answer the call of neighboring towns, a branch office was started in Lucky Lake, and another at Milden, but these ventures were not outstandingly successful. Mr. Heddeshheimer's brother was invited to assist in the office as the work became too heavy for the editor alone, but fate was against the continuation of this, as the succession of poor crop years set in, and mortality among country printing offices was heavy. William went to Lucky Lake to take over the office, and the Milden plant, which had been sold to Mr. J. Hudson, was destroyed by fire.

The "Enterprise" Grows

THE PAPER changed size on several occasions. Starting, as a five column paper, it later enlarged to six column size, and in the years following the war it enlarged to seven column size, changed name from "Conquest Enterprise" to "Fertile Valley Enterprise" in order to be all-inclusive of territory served, and pages were added for Bounty, Mildred and Ardath. Looking through the file copies one can re-live the history of the community for 35 years,—its happy hours, its sorrows, its thrills and its tragedies.

Upon the death of the editor, Mr. White, at Outlook in 1942, the paper in that town was sold, but the war had brought about such a scarcity of experienced printers, that it was found impossible to carry on with the publication with the upshot that the office was closed in 1944. Shortly after cessation of publication the citizens of Outlook sent a deputation to interview the Enterprise, with the request that an "Outlook" section be added to the paper. Under the same pressure as other offices in facing shortage of skilled help, consent was rather reluctantly given, and as feared, the new responsibilities proved almost too much to cope with, but the obligation was carried through until the Outlook plant was re-opened in 1946.

The office was moved from its original site to where the post office now stands, in fact the original office is now the Post Office. The building was moved by Messrs. W. Stonehouse and W. Nisbet and required a week to cover the length of the block moved. The paper that week, was printed while the office was still on rollers, in the middle of the street. The larger office built in the basement of what later was the theatre, was constructed in 1925 and the plant moved there, where it operated until being sold in December 1947. The equipment was moved out, and the Enterprise closed its long and interesting history.

A Near Tragedy

A FIRE ALMOST DESTROYED the plant in 1944, in fact when first discovered any chance of stopping the blaze seemed hopeless, but every-

one turned in with every extinguisher and piece of equipment available, and because the walls were cement and the fire contained, the effort proved successful and though loss in type and general equipment was heavy, none of the major machinery was severely damaged, and the paper, containing the story of its own fire, was issued in spite of terrible handicaps. Difficulty in getting repairs for some machinery was responsible for the missing of one or two issues of the full paper, but the gap was usually bridged by a small edition printed on a hand press.

During most of the years of publication, the editor carried the burden of editing, printing and general business single-handed, and it was in 1945 that it nearly broke his heart because a very severe attack of sciatica forced him to miss the first paper in all the years of publishing (others had been cancelled voluntarily for vacation purposes, but this was the first he was unable to publish). And this was the first warning sign of the coming events for the war time strain took toll, and in 1947 a second attack of the same affliction, seemed to serve notice that it would be advisable to seek relief from the burden. The editor was a member of the crack baseball team of 1913-14-15, but a war wound of shrapnel in the right arm at the battle of Passchendaele, in 1917, definitely took him out of baseball.

Note: The editor's family name "Heddesheimer" was shortened to "Head" in the year 1941.

The Agricultural Society

THE DISTRICT OF FERTILE VALLEY was well under way by 1912, and the farmers were feeling the need of an organization for the promotion of social life, and thought it a good plan to organize an Agricultural Society, but there was an Agricultural Society already organized at Outlook, and the department at Regina had issued a ruling making it compulsory that those societies be at least five miles apart. However this was finally overcome on the fact that the Saskatchewan-Montana international boundary, it being difficult to draw a straight line across the river to the farmsteads, was made the only means of making the distance.

[illegible]



Ploughing with a Steam Engine, C. J. McMillan.



Ploughing with horses.



Drill.



Binders.



Traffic Bridge built in 30's to replace ferry on Highway 15.

This Society has been an asset to the community, sponsoring fairs, field days, short Agricultural Courses, Ploughing Matches, Machinery Demonstrations and Rallies. The boys of Conquest, co-operating with Bounty and surrounding district had a farm Boys Club, and each year from 1924-29 boys from this group went to Regina Exhibition, or to Saskatoon Farm Boys Camp, competing with Farm Boys Clubs from all over the Province in stock judging, usually carrying off some of the prizes and often winning top awards.

Junior Grain Club

IN 1927 a Fertile Valley Junior Grain Club was organized under the sponsorship of the Western Grain Company. Members of this club went to Saskatoon competing with other teams and being well trained were always winners in placing grain and weeds. Mr. Alex McPhadden and Mr. Jos. Sibbald proved excellent leaders.

On June 2nd 1914, the Conquest Grain Growers Co-operative Association was formed. Following are the minutes of their first meeting: "Meeting held in Murchison's Hall, Conquest. Stockholders present were: Joe Lorimer, P. H. Kennedy, F. L. Kerr, R. J. Anderson, D. W. Smith and W. A. Kennedy. Meeting convened about 9 p.m. with D. W. Smith, President of the Grain Growers Association in the chair.

Motion; Messrs. R. J. Anderson and P. H. Kennedy.

The first nine names appearing on stock list be a board of permanent directors: the first three men to act till the first annual meeting, and the second three to act, till the second annual meeting, and the third three to act till the third annual meeting. Carried. On motion of Messrs J. Lorimer and P. H. Kennedy, Mr. E. Axness was appointed as auditor. Adjournment.

At a directors meeting Mr. A. Balkwill was elected President; Mr. J. Lorimer, Vice-President and Mr. P. H. Kennedy, Secretary-Treasurer."

Conquest Homemakers

ON MARCH 30th 1927, Mr. W. A. Kennedy and Mr. E. Land made a motion that all lady members be a committee to "Deal with things mentioned by Mrs. Burton." It was from this discussion that plans were finally made for a ladies' organization which became known as the Conquest Homemakers.

In reading through the minutes we find the following people active in making the Conquest Society a busy and successful organization: P. H. Kennedy, W. A. Kennedy, W. Johnston, T. Tyler,

Robt. and Joe Sibbald, J. Lorimer, Hornby, McMillan, Gilchrist, McPhadden, Girvin, H. McNaughton, Lemon, Smith and Ellis.

For several years an annual picnic was held at Joe Sibbald's and was always looked upon as one of "the" events of the year.

In 1927 a local council of Agriculture was organized by district director Tegart of the United Farmers Lodge. H. McNaughton—to represent Warminster; Robt. Sibbald—to represent Ardath; Joe Sibbald—to represent Conquest; A. McPhadden—to represent Bounty.

Look at these Prices!

A curling rink and an open air skating rink was built in 1913. In this same year Mr. A. E. Barrett staged a \$10,000 stock reducing sale. Here are some of the prices of interest: Men's Dress Shirts, 75 cents; Dress Muslins, 12½ cents per yard; Ladies Blouses, 75 cents; Ladies Hosiery, fancy open work design in all colors, 35 cents a pair. The issue of March 13th 1913 Enterprise contained an add reading in part: "Wash day drudgery banished. Science has produced the MARVELOUS IXL vacuum washer, price \$3.50 etc., etc. Thousands now in use, millions will be." (but not a word about what soap to use!) The Enterprise staged a huge subscription contest with a Heintzman Piano as first prize. Lily Cavanaugh was the proud winner.

In May of 1913 Harry Wilson opened a bake shop. In June the Enterprise ran an ad, "Up-to-date calling cards for Ladies." Progress! On July 3rd 1914, the first of several bad fires destroyed the C.P.R. station. It was rebuilt later the same year. Conquest had a flurry of excitement in August 1914, when it was rumored that a ruby mine had been located south of town. Visions of wealth impelled all citizens to hasten to the scene to stake claims. The "get rich quick" urge almost resulted in a riot as a couple of young gallants on horseback, Don Murchison and Graydon Anderson, sped off at top speed, but on hitting a snag they were forced to turn back. Graydon went about 20 miles south of town, where he again from various parts of the district. They were pretty red hot when they returned, and sustained little damage to their reputations. The value, according to some, was about \$10,000.

Local children living in the district were necessary to find a place for the school. For a time classes were held in the church, later moving to Jackson's Store. In 1916 a school was built on the



Barging, C. J. McMillan Outfits.



Gay Blades of 1927.



Stook Loader.



Threshing with a Steam Engine, P. Kennedy.

present school site, with Mr. Carmichael and Miss Dunlop, as teachers. When the district voted for Consolidation in 1920, an additional four rooms and auditorium was built. A big "ball" held in the auditorium marked the official opening of the new school. As very few country schools have a play room large enough for dances, concerts, and sports, we consider ourselves very fortunate. Down through the years the pupils of the Conquest School have been proud to carry the "Black and Gold" into scholastic or athletic fields.

The first School Board 1913—was: John Murchison, chairman; R. H. Collard; C. White; F. Jones, secretary. Miss L. Meech, teacher.

1916—T. H. Mitchell, chairman; W. Johnston, A. E. Barrett; S. Exley, secretary.

1920—J. Lorimer, chairman; J. Sibbald; A. E. Barrett; E. M. Axness, secretary. Janitor, Wm. Fox.

1948—H. A. Neve, chairman; O. Cole; Wm. Gorham; A. O. Johnston; F. Tyler; T. Pomeroy, secretary.

The only ladies to serve on the school boards were Mrs. Tilda Jackson, 1937-39; and Mrs. Gladys Dishaw, 1939-41.

The United Church

ON JULY 21, 1916, the corner stone of the Conquest United Church was laid, Rev. Elsey, pastor. Other ministers present for the occasion were: Rev. Reid of Kerrobert, Rev. Archibald Young of Outlook, Rev. Keil of Ardath, Rev. Stevens of Mildred and Rev. Beavis of Red Deer Lake. On Dec. 17th the church was officially opened by Rev. Wood in the morning and Rev. Young in the evening. That same winter the little red chairs were bought for the primary classes in the Sunday School, and gave service until the fall of 1947, when they had to be replaced. On May 10th Mrs. P. H. Kennedy and Miss Murchison organized the first Cradle Roll in connection with the Sunday School. The Mission Band was formed at this time also, Mrs. Wm. Fletcher, Leader and Mrs. Carlton, Assistant.

The municipality still had no office of their own in which to meet and conduct their business so in June, a vote was taken to decide whether one should be built in Conquest or Bratton. It was decided in favor of Conquest. Mr. Carlton was secretary of the municipality at that time, and in June of that year he married Miss Henry, a local teacher. Her bridal shower was the first of many community showers to be held in Conquest. Mrs. Oman kindly loaned her home above their hardware store, for the event. This building was destroyed by fire in 1939. In 1917 Dr. Drummond and his family came to town and assisted in carrying

for the health of the district until he moved west in 1937.

On March 26th, 1919 a C.N.R. train was derailed at Ardath, running through a grain elevator and killing two of the train crew and one passenger.

Fire destroyed three Conquest buildings on the south end of main street, Coon's Harness Store, Driscoll's general store and Proctor's Butcher Shop. On December 18, 1921, another disastrous fire struck the town, this time burning three large stores on Main Street, Robertson's, Langtry's, and the building used as a drug store, post office and fire hall.

The Garage Grows

IN MAY of 1921 Dick Bennett and Son bought the garage and have doctored "sick" cars and machinery ever since. In 1947 they tore down the oldest part of the building and rebuilt one of the most up-to-date garages in rural Saskatchewan. "Dick's" specialty for years was the Model T Ford and he still has a soft spot in his heart for that same car. In 1926 they built a power house and supplied the town with electricity until the Hydro came through in 1930.

On July 3rd, 1922, the first wedding in the United Church was solemnized between Lloyd Carmichael and Annie Twidale with Marjorie Drummond at the organ. In June, 1925, the United Church of Canada was consummated, and the United Church of Conquest was now absorbed in this body. On December 20th, Tom Pomeroy moved his building from Ardath to Conquest with about twenty-four horses. This building is now the Red & White Store, operated by Harry Dishaw. In the year 1926 Henry Head built the "Coliseum" and from then on, shows and dances have been held there. In 1925 Mr. A. Brindle and his wife arrived in town and he bought the blacksmith shop from Mr. Alex McRae. This was operated under his management until 1943, when it was sold to John Wyatt.

For a number of years Provincial and R.C.M.P. detachments were stationed here.

The Highway Boys

On July 1st, 1922, the first beef ring was organized in Conquest and has operated ever since. For many years the road went through a field and the boys had to be experienced before they could be used. It was necessary to have a road only during the winter months. It was not until these years that the road was gravelled, and a gravelled road was used to run. In the streets and four gravelled so that we



Oats, 1910, W. A. Kennedy.



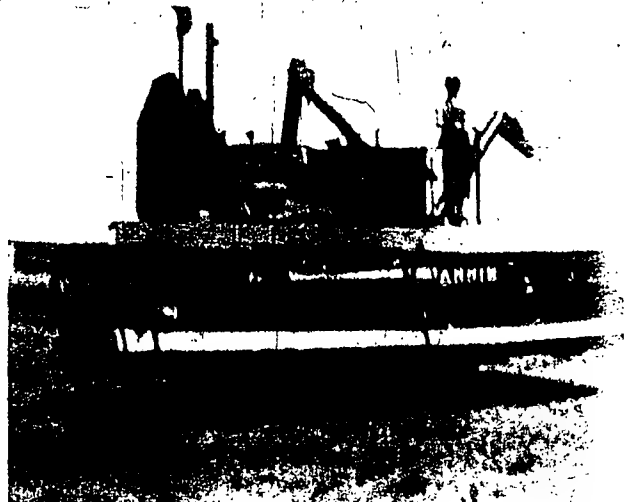
Wheat, 1927, P. Kennedy.



First Combine in the District, D. E. Johnson, 1927.



1944 Wheat Crop, J. Sibbald.



Self-propelled combine, Wm. Gilchrist.

now have one good road in rainy weather. In 1938 a "market road" was built from Conquest to Highway No. 7 at Delisle but as yet, this has not been gravelled. In 1937 Mrs. Parker established a dress shop and beauty parlor on Main Street.

Our only hotel having been burned down in 1931, the town was without a "stopping place." In 1938 a large building was moved from Zealandia, built onto, and now we have a neat, clean, well-run hotel for the use of the public. During the years from 1946 to 48 the town has experienced a building boom. We now have four up-to-date, stucco business places, namely: Bennett's Garage, The Massey-Harris, The New Cafe and Dr. Clark's Dental Office, which is said to be one of the best equipped anywhere in the province. Several houses have been brought in, others built, and at the present time no more lots are available until the west end of town is surveyed.

The town council of 1948 consists of A. Bennett, C. Hudson and E. Larocque (Overseer).

Conquest Businesses

Names of present day business and owners as follows:

International Harvester Co.	Roy O'Hara
Hudson's Groc'y Store and Drugs	C. Hudson
Meat Market	J. C. Kerr
Royal Cafe	Der Kim
Red & White Store	Harry Dishaw
Dress Shop & Beauty Parlor	Mrs. M. Parker
The New Cafe	Wm. McAdam, Jim McRae
Merchants Hotel	Mrs. Gladys Prime
Massey-Harris Co.	Reynolds & Sibbald
Draying	B. Grant, Wm. Ruttle, H. McRae
General Store	Ted Jackson & Son
Cockshutt Agency and B.A. Oil	Jim McRae
Bennett's Garage	Bennett & Son (Cars, Case, John Deere, Oliver)
Royal Bank of Canada	H. Todd
Ogilvie Elevator	Jim McRae
Pioneer Elevator	Bruce Shea
Pool Elevator	L. Weir
Axness Bros. & Co.	E. M. Axness
Larocque's Hardware	E. Larocque
Imperial Building Supplies	A. Forsyth
Blacksmith Shop	John Wyatt
Post Office	H. A. Head
Barber Shop	Bruce Shea
Electric Shop	Norman Johnson
Dentist	Dr. Lorne Clark
Telephone Office	Mrs. B. Smith
Municipal Office	H. Neve, Sec.-Treas. Wm. McMillan, Reeve

Three of these, Axness, Larocque and Forsyth have been in business continuously since 1912. In the rural district those who filed homesteads in those first years and still actively engaged in working the same land are—Wes Johnson, Wm. McMillan, Joe Dishaw, J. McCuaig and C. B. Smith.

Shelter Belts

IN APRIL OF 1922, P. H. Kennedy planted a tree belt on the east and west sides of Section 5. Convinced that this would help the farmers in fighting drought and blowing, he submitted a tree planting scheme in the early 30's, to the Minister of Agriculture, Robt. Weir. Since then Mr. Kennedy has become known as "the father of the shelterbelts" as they are his brainchild. In 1935 the Conquest Field Shelter Belt Association came into being with Fred Jones as President and P. H. Kennedy, as Secretary. Some of the original planters were Denny Johnson, Wes. Johnston, Fred Jones, W. A. Kennedy, P. H. Kennedy and Cecil Balkwill.

The general arrangement of the tree strips is nine strips north and south, or east and west, in a section. Through the years they have been carefully checked by a Government man, and the venture has been so successful, that the scheme is now being tried in other parts of the province. The pictures of Conquest and district from the air, by a Saskatoon "Star" photographer, in the fall of 1947, show clearly how the shelterbelts have added beauty to the treeless prairies. It is the Government's plan to build a big P.F.R.A. dam about 12 miles south of Outlook, on the South Saskatchewan River. If and when this scheme of irrigation goes through, farming in this district will be revolutionized.

As this is essentially a farming district, it has been interesting to note the changes in farming methods down through the years. At first most of the heavy work was done by horse power, but gradually more machinery was available. The different machines improved, steam engines were fired with straw for threshing. Next came oil pull tractors, binders, plow and pony drill, one-way, gas tractors, combines, barges and the latest invention is the self-propelled combine. All these improvements have helped to make the farmer's work easier and more speedy.

The Anglican Church

BY THE PRESENTIES there were several Anglican faith living in the district. The Anglican minister here for many years, and under his leadership were established the Anglican Church of Conquest and the Anglican Church of four parishes. The Anglican Church is on the corner of Main Street. The first Anglican minister was the Rev. Turnbull and Mrs. Brindle. The Rev. E. Saunders,

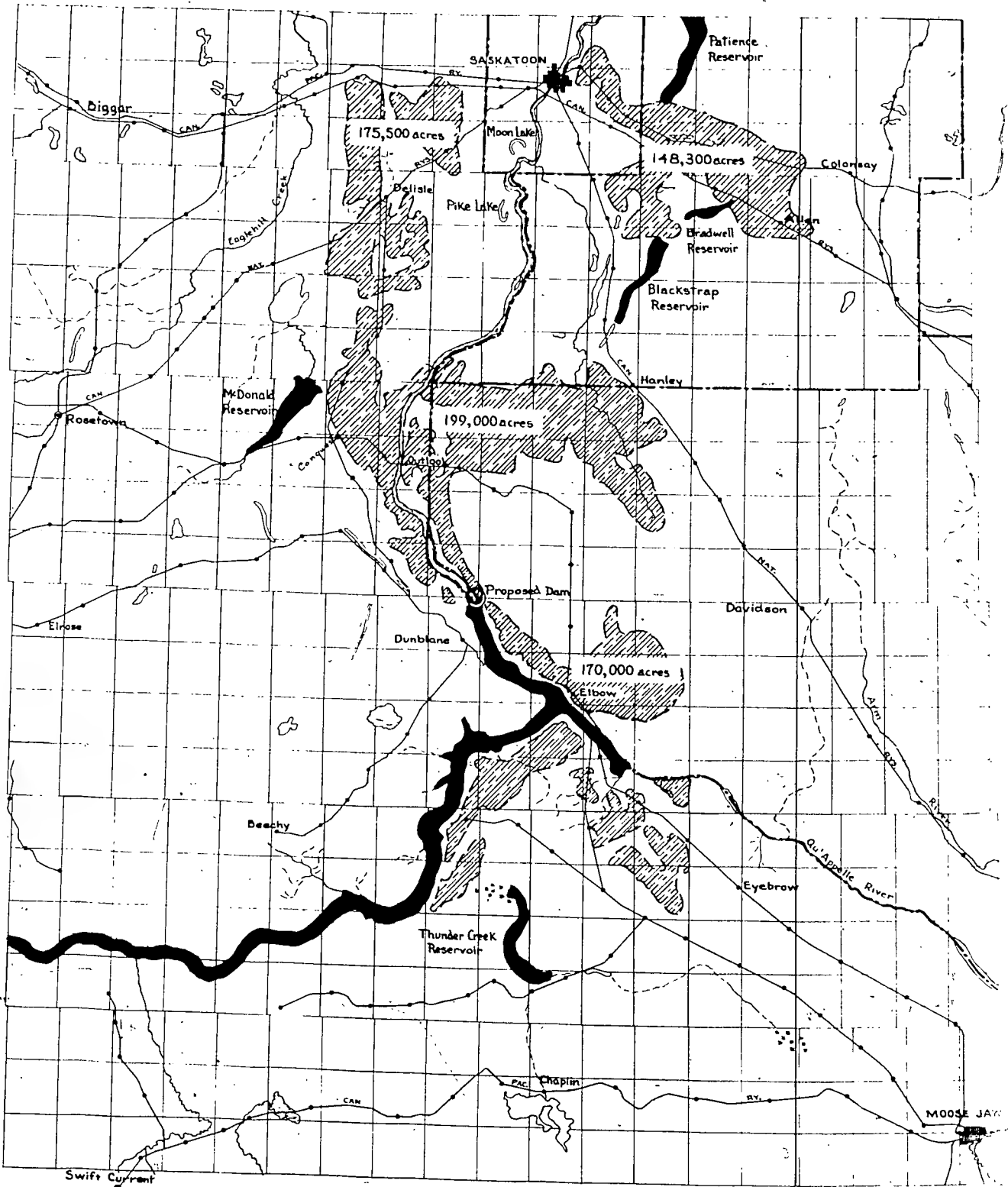
Anglican Church here, but the Priest holds mass in the church.

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROJECT

LEGEND

Proposed Irrigable Areas 

Proposed Reservoirs 



Recreation and Personalities

We Play, Too

THE HUMAN URGE for a recreational balance of fun, along with work, inherent in each of us, which prompts the old saying of "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", soon became evident in community activities. Neighborly house parties were numerous, the fun enjoyed by all, and none were old. The musical games of "Old Dusty Miller" and "Thread the Needle" soon were replaced, not quite painlessly, by the Circle Two-step, waltz-quadrille, and military schottische. Evolution cannot be stopped; and the youth of 1905, who made Grandma (way back East) shake her snowy head, has become the head-shaker, tch-tch-er of 1948, and just as sure as Grandma, that the modern generation is headed for "horns and pitch forks." Even the good old Methodist toes had an itchy tingling for those dance tunes. Who could resist the lilting fiddle of the soulful hand cupped tones of the mouth-organ, with maybe a "chorder" at the organ.

The first dance recorded was in 1905, held in a granary, following a picnic at the homestead of Mr. Twidale. Let us quote Mrs. J. Lorimer who writes "The granary looked large to us in those days, and our music was an organ and one fiddle but we certainly had one grand time," Mrs. Lorimer continues, "I was surprised to note so many young and good looking bachelors, some of whom were A. Amy, Frank Kerr, G. Hanna, J. Johnston, C. Epps, P. H. Kennedy, Wm. McMillan and Neil Gilchrist." (unquote)

The dancing in those days began in good time, (not like the 1948 near mid-nite beginning) which brings such scolding remonstrations to the young fry of "Why don't you start in decent time and quit at mid-nite" . . . ooh! Let us quote Mr. Sutton from an article called "The Evolution of Fertile Valley," on that same dance in Twidale's granary. "Then the dance began at dark, with another supper at mid-nite, and dancing again till daylight, when we all returned to our work, positively refreshed by the unwonted relaxation." (unquote) Uh-huh!

Baseball's Beginning

SO, TOO, GREW SPORTS from the picnic. "Choose up sides" games, to the more ambitious, competitive teams that the years developed. One of the first baseball teams of our early pioneers, started at a picnic, again at Mr. Twidale's in 1907. It was made up of the following stars—Wesley Johnston, Everett McMillan, Chas. McMillan, George Henderson, Harry McKague, A.

Balkwill, Alex Kerr, Jos. Lorimer and Russel Hunt. It is said that J. Lorimer and A. Balkwill formed the battery, and the curves and spit balls were terrific. From this early beginning, through the years that followed, Conquest was noted for a most formidable "nine," and at tournaments the country over were conceded the stiffest opposition. This supremacy climaxed in 1922, when the home team were winners at the Saskatoon Exhibition, deserving of special credit, because the team was composed solely of local men.

And what of the ladies? Well they were game too, and had their picnic innings, not softball then, but the good old hard ball, and how those ladies could run! Remember those sack races, and later at the Fairs, the hitch-and-go races. There were few who could not harness, hitch, and drive her own grey mare (younger then) to go a-visiting or marketing "at the store" to buy flour, tacks, fruit, molasses, coal oil or candy. They were active and jolly and from early years the girls of our community have brought honour, yes even fame, to our town. In 1927, 28 and 29 our girls won high honors in basketball—the lineup was: Katherine Kennedy, Lily Cole, Jean Kennedy, Margaret Exley, Emily Moran, Edna Moran, Emma Balkwill, Helen Clark, Marion Lorimer, Elma Quine, Carmel Seay, Aileen Sibbald, Ethel Brown and Alice Mannen.

Girls' Basketball

WINNING OVER BEDFORD ROAD of Saskatoon the girls became the champions of Northern Saskatchewan. In the future playoffs for Saskatchewan championship the girls lost out but were royally treated and feted on their return for the noble effort attempted and almost achieved. A local girl, Bertha Dishaw, played both hardball and softball with the famous "Pats" team of Saskatoon from 1927 to 1935.

In 1935, when it is now called, the Conquest, the girls received a generous share of prize money. The girls were treated far and wide, and were the first to wear the now predominant blue and white. Under the leadership of Bertha Dishaw, the girls' basketball team of being the first to represent the part of the country. For three years, 1946, 1947, and 1948, the girls qualified to step into the shoes of the famous Saskatoon Pats and

the three schools Ardath, held a joint fair and sports



Ladies' Hard Ball Team in the early days.



The Unmarried Belles of 1910. Helen Drysdale, Hilda Ankenman, Flossie McKague, Lily Cavanaugh, Thelma McMillan, Ethel McKague, Alice Green, Nell Arthur, Elsie Morrison, Olive McLaughlin, Edith Campbell, Carrie Smith, Ollie Ankenman, Marion Drysdale, Effie Whittaker.



Hard Ball Winners at Outlook Sports 1913. There were five Hamiota boys on the team: John McMillan, H. Head, E. Whitely, C. J. McMillan, Geo. Gray.



Chautauqua.



Men's Hard Ball Team: W. Lorimer, C. J. McMillan, Bill McAdam, Geo. Gray, Tom McAdam, Wes. Johnston, Geo. Rouledu.

day. Many a tough battle was fought in baseball, basketball and tennis to determine which school would gather in the most points and so have the honor of taking home the shield for that year. As time went by the rivalry became so intense, it was decided to discontinue these contests for a while, and they never have been resumed.

Cultural Groups

VERY EARLY in our district the minds of the people developed a keen interest in cultural spheres, and appreciation of good music. From the first years there was no lack of performers, who gave unstintingly of their time and effort—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Barrett, the Axness brothers, Emil and Melvin, and later their sisters, Mrs. Rouleau and Mrs. Jones. Mr. Bruce Jones organized and trained a Boys Band which was the pride of the district. The country marvelled at the talent, unknown before, in our midst. It was a great boon to many boys in experience and pleasure, for they travelled far afield, to play at Sports Days and participate in parades and competitions.

In 1912 a group known as the Philharmonic Society was formed, and there was always an interested Choir for the Church services. Cantatas and operettas have been presented through the years under the direction of Mrs. Rouleau, Margery Murchison, J. J. Stilwell, Laura Ward, Perley Larson and W. L. Hill of Luck Lake, and in the past few years by Mrs. McIntyre. Other outstanding musicians were Margaret Harrison, Edith Quine and Mrs. Halliday. Talent from Conquest went far and wide, gladly participating in programs for fowl suppers, anniversaries, and concerts.

In 1912 Conquest was visited by the Toronto Ladies' Quartette, also the Jubilee Singers.

In 1917 radio was still in the experimental stage. The Chautauqua Company was touring Canada, bringing world talent to city and country alike. A group of public spirited citizens decided the district would benefit greatly by having this great show. The local committee had to guarantee the Chautauqua Company \$1,500.00 to come and if there were not enough tickets sold to cover this amount they had to make up the difference. The show was held in a huge tent, afternoons and evenings, for a week. In the mornings the Chautauqua superintendent trained local children for a program which was held the last afternoon during the show. In sponsoring Chautauqua from 1917 to 1930 the local committee met with several obstacles. One afternoon in 1925 a terrific wind and hail storm flattened the big tent and since "the show must go on," arrangements were made to hold the concerts in the old rink and the auditorium until the tent could be set up again. It was a week of wonderful entertainment and there were many "who would not miss a program for the work."

Debating, Too

BUT ENTERTAINMENT did not always have to come to these versatile folk—again we read from Mr. Sutton's "Evolution of Fertile Valley." This was at Rouworth school and debates were the order of the day. Quote: "Resolved that a man would make more money on a homestead in three years than anywhere else." The opposition proved conclusively that he lost over \$3,000.00 in that time, and when reminded that he'd never had that much, replied "No, but see what I should have had." Another vital subject debated was "Resolved that a team of oxen is more advantageous to a young man on a homestead than a good wife." The affirmative won. The debate was changed to "A good wife or \$1,000.00"—and this had to be debated twice, for the Dollars having won by quite a lead, the wives made it so "Hot" for the mercenary husbands that arrangements had to be made for a further debate, and the result was a reserved decision. Mr. Sutton tells us that George Rouleau edited a paper, one copy to an edition and that a copy of one is being preserved in the University of Saskatchewan.

Reading from a copy of the Enterprise of 1912, we note that a Commercial Club was formed and entertainment was varied, quote: "A bowling tournament was held in Welch's Pool Hall (now Jackson's store) and was exceedingly interesting. Several high scores were made, and several ties. Mrs. Welch won first prize, a beautiful hand painted vase; Mrs. Geo. Henderson second, a silver butter dish; and Mrs. Snider third, a hand painted hair receiver." "The ladies," we read farther, "were also wizards at pool playing and some of the prettiest caroms, billiards, scratches and flukes, ever known in the history of the world, were seen that night."

Skating, Curling

DURING THE YEAR 1913 the community erected a curling and skating rink which gave people one of the big community rink was built in 1913. Mr. Arthur Balkwill was the first president of the Curling Club, and Mr. Fred Johnson was the first treasurer. The bonspiel in 1913 was a "One Thousand Dollars" bonspiel for competition. The curling was a success. We think of curling as something new. When a man has a prize he won.

Red Deer Lake on the "hunters" paradise in the loads of hunters from the district to shoot ducks and geese. D. Johnson and C. J. McJohnson were the successful hunters, we would have a successful shoot.



Boy's Basketball Team, 1932-33: Gordon Hamilton, Fred Wilson, Colin McMillan, Jack Kerr, George Wilson, Stewart Kennedy, Elmer Rafoss, Mel Fletcher, Lloyd Lorimer.



Tramp Drill, Xmas Concert 1941—E. Fisher, C. Lockwood, Buster Shaw, Gibb Balkwill, Stan McAdam, Norman Joyes, Keith Fisher.



School Days 1941. Jean Amy, Doris Lylyk, June Johnson, Evelyn Wick and Muriel Sibbald.



The Old Rink.



Elks Treat, Xmas 1947.

As we said at the beginning of our story, while each individual has contributed to the development of our district, there were those who possessed some special talent or ability. Of these, we would like to mention a few, who rendered such service to the community.

Our Country Doctor

IN A PIONEER COUNTRY, the coming of the doctor marks an epoch, and such was the coming of Dr. Wray, in 1908. His first office was on the farm of Mr. Bruce Johnson, and this was later moved to Conquest, when the railway came through. He served the district continuously till his passing in 1936, and the sight of his buggy and team of ponies will be remembered as long as there are pioneers. Florence Hall, R.N., served with him as nurse; later married the doctor and still lives in the village of Conquest. Mrs. Nye, R.N. also Royal College of Nursing, conducted a nursing home in Conquest for years. She went overseas in World War I with the Red Cross and won a war medal. She now lives in Conquest during the summer months and in Saskatoon in the winter.

Mr. Twidale planted the first trees on these otherwise treeless plains, bringing the young trees from Saskatoon. Mr. D. Johnson's 'Evergreen Farm' is one of the beauty spots of the district. Pictures of this have been shown on the screen.

Our Homemakers Club was formed in 1929 with Mrs. J. Burton, the first president and Mrs. C. A. Drummond the first secretary. Mrs. Lorne Clark holds the president's office for 1948, and she is also provincial secretary of the Homemakers.

Dr. Zivot served the district as doctor from 1939-41 under a mutual medical benefit plan.

Fraternal Societies

THE DISTRICT has not lacked for fraternal organizations. The Masonic Lodge was held first at Ardath in June 1917 later moving to Conquest. The Fertile Valley Chapter No. 94 O.E.S. was organized at Conquest in 1932. Mrs. Louise Martin, W.M. and Mr. W. F. Quine W.P. The Elks were first organized in 1928 and later disbanded; reorganizing in 1945 under the leadership of P. J. LeMasurier. The Legion was active for a number of years after the first war and is now functioning again. The I.O.O.F. was an active lodge for years but has now disbanded.

In the days when nurses were few and far between, Mrs. Tom McAdam helped out many times when illness struck in homes.

Mr. F. Jones is noted for his beautiful garden and knowledge of how to make things grow. To see our school grounds, is to know this. Mr. Fox, for years did a fine job on these same grounds.

Of our earlier community leaders there are Mr. and Mrs. G. H. McKague. In later years there are Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Head, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Johnston, and numerous others. In fact it is impossible to mention all.

Mr. Peter Wick arrived in 1912, and since that time has built nearly everything in town and surrounding country. At times he has had three or four houses under construction at one time.

In the early days Mr. Frank Kerr was noted for his cooking ability, in fact it has been said that his culinary art was the envy of all the ladies of the district.

Community Leaders

WHILE WE HAVE many leaders of girls work in the community, we have not always been so fortunate in boys work. Hence we make special mention of the work done by Mr. A. McPhadden of Bounty and the late J. F. Sibbald, in training boys teams for the grain and stock judging in Saskatoon. For years these teams won first awards at the exhibitions, and the knowledge gained thereby, must have proved of great value to these boys, who are now farming and stock raising for themselves.

Mr. Lorimer was an ardent admirer of good stock and won many prizes at exhibitions with his registered Clydesdales.

From 1917 to 1948 our Central has answered calls early and late. Mrs. Scott is noted for her kindness in keeping the board open at night in times of sickness or emergency. She also often delivered meals to sick homes where there are no phones.

Mr. Foster, a leader on the curling ice, wins his share of trophies and figures. Whom are we forgetting? The curling two games in an evening. Mr. Foster, with the best of them, has made a 'niche' of himself. Mrs. Scott, of her musical talent, has played a large and various part in the community.

Mr. Foster, a follower of the game, has been a most bonspiel player every day.

Mr. Foster, no matter what the weather, has been a most bonspiel player every day. Mr. Foster, no matter what the weather, has been a most bonspiel player every day. Mr. Foster, no matter what the weather, has been a most bonspiel player every day.



1918

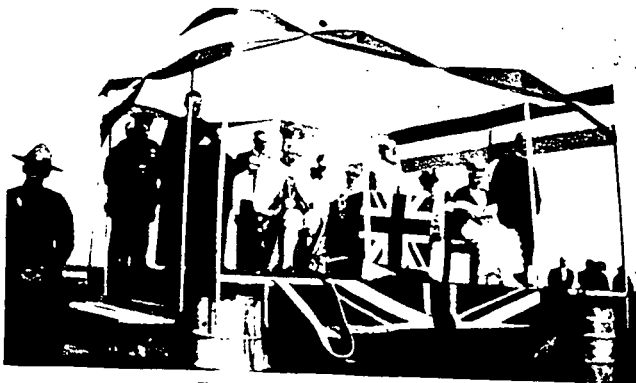
Kids Day at Chautauqua.



1926



Local Pierrot Troupe, 1924.



Coronation Day, 1937.



Conquest Boys Band, 1934.



D. Johnston.

A Good "Shoot".

C. J. McMillan

CONQUEST BASEBALL TEAM

CHAMPIONS OF
SASKATCHEWAN 1922

Conquest B.B. Club. Winner of the Saskatchewan Tournament 1922.

RECORD 1922
26 GAMES PLAYED
23 WINS

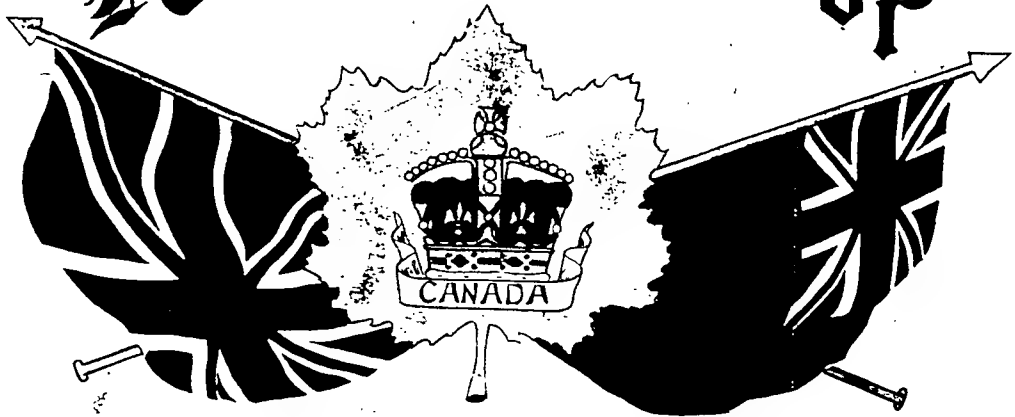
Compliments of **H. C. WILSON**
GENERAL MERCHANT PHONE 43 CONQUEST, SASK.

RECORD 1920-21-22
76 GAMES PLAYED
40 WINS



Northern Saskatchewan Basketball Champions, 1927-28, 1928-29. H. White, Manager; E. Lick, Chaperon; C. Clocklin, Coach. Team: Marion Lorimer, Jean Kennedy, Lily Cole, Helen Cole, Edna Moran, Alice Annen, Margaret Exley, Emily Moran, Emma Balkwill, Katherine Kennedy.

Roll of Honor



1914 ~ 1918

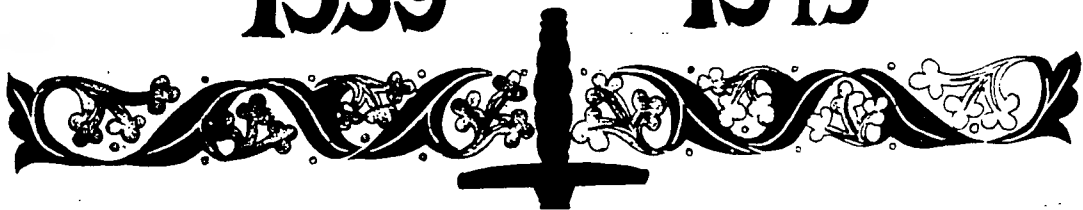
Robt Allen
 Robt Alexander
 Wm. Ames
 Noble Andrew
 J.W. Andrews ★
 Harry Atwood
 E.W. Badger
 Archie Badger
 F. Ball ★
 H. A. Bath ★
 A.J. Body ★
 R.D. Body
 Ford Beavis
 A.K. Bender ★
 J. Carson ★
 Roy. Cavanaugh ★
 C. Chartland
 C.F. Cunningham
 Glen Dishaw
 John W. Dishaw ★
 Wm. Drysdale ★
 L. Drummarie
 C. Fairman
 R. Baddagel

Wm. Glendenning
 George Gray
 C. Grier
 Harry Hagen
 C. Halliday ★
 H. Head
 A. Henderson
 Wm. Hogarth
 Ray Innis
 E. Jones ★
 Ben Johnston ★
 Geo. Joyce
 R.M. Knowles ★
 C. Linton ★
 Elizabeth Nye ★
 Lou. Murchison ★
 Don Maxwell
 R. Mayer
 James Minichin
 Richard Moore
 D. Morton
 Russ McLaughlin
 Wm. MacDonald
 Casualties ★

Wm. McIntyre
 A. Noble ★
 H. Obie
 T. Patterson
 C. Procter
 R. Procter
 F.J. Plaston
 E.E. Rogers
 James Scott
 R. Simpson
 Wm. Smith
 C. Stevenson
 D.J. Stewart
 John Tavra
 Don Wilson
 C. Mullins
 W. McLean
 Russ. Warlow
 C. Wilson ★
 Sam Wilson
 E. James
 J. Gardiner
 Wm. Kaud

THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE WITH CANADA'S FIGHTING FORCES

1939 ~ 1945



Glen Amy Geo Robillard
Art Appleby Lawrence Read
Tom Armstrong Don Sibbald
Ruth Bartindale Albert Snider
Ray Bartindale Jack Taylor
Harold Clark Bill Hudson
Wilbert Clark Earl Johnston
Oscar Cole Alvin Kerr
Ernest Cole P. Kehler
Florence Cook E. Laing
Jack Forsythe Stewart Kerr
Reg Forsythe Archie Larocque
Ed Glendenning Stewart Larocque
J. Grier Walter Larocque
Cernon Gray Joe Leach
Al Hudson Geo Limer
Jean Head Bill Balkwill

Royd L'Etienne Dunc McMillan
Dave Menzies John McMillan
Andy Megaw Earl McMillan
Sam Megaw Art McLaughlin
Bill Miller Lorne McLaughlin
Norman Black William
Stan Black ★ Gordon Nesbit ★
Frank Nesbit Gordon Nesbit
Norman Nesbit Earl Nesbit
Margaret Golder Lina Nesbit
L. Nesbit Lorne Nesbit
Gordon Nesbit Earl Nesbit
John Nesbit Earl Nesbit
Earl Nesbit
Gordon Nesbit
Lorne Nesbit
Gordon Nesbit
Lorne Nesbit



THIS WOULD NOT be complete without mention of our "Aunt Carrie and Uncle Bill" McAdam. They have raised a family of twelve and their general good humor is known far and wide. While they are related to half of the community, they are "Aunt Carrie and Uncle Bill" to the other half too.

Time marches on. This has been brought forcibly to our attention, during the past ten or twelve years, when three of our pioneer couples celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries:

In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cavanaugh, in 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dishaw and 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Johnston, received congratulations of their friends and neighbors on the event of their fifty years of wedded life. In 1942 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ankenman celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

War Service 1914-18

PRIME MINISTER Sir Robert Borden, in endeavoring to have Canada shoulder a greater share of empire defence, asked his countrymen to agree to Canada providing four Dreadnaughts of latest design and fighting power as ships-of-the-line for the Royal Navy. Living in apparent peace, it was an impossible task to convince the public that such a move was necessary, and the proposition was turned down. The irony of the situation was that but a brief period elapsed ere the clouds of war began to threaten. In 1913 a move was made to organize a troop of Saskatchewan Light Horse in Conquest, but after some preliminary work had been done the plan was abandoned as impractical.

With these two episodes in retrospect the startling news of the outbreak of the war brought conflicting reactions, foremost of which was, that the country as a whole in rejecting warnings of leaders now felt their responsibility, and as the opening phases of the war seemed to bring nothing but discouraging news, men became restive, showed a desire to join the colors. Those who felt they could not do so immediately began to think in terms of a "Home Guard," and did in fact begin training in the rudiments of military formations and manouvering. Don Lewis, druggist, was one of the leaders at that time.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS being a very high standard in the opening weeks of the war, it was soon noised about that a man had to be practically 100% perfect in physique or he had no possible hope of enlisting. It became all too true before the end of the war that not only were medical standards considerably lowered, but conscription had to be introduced. One of the first to enlist in the first weeks of the war was Charlie Greer, a veteran of the South African War, and

many more joined up until the total from Conquest reached a goodly number. (See Honor Roll).

Casualties

ONE OF THE FIRST casualties was that of a local boy, and son of one of our pioneer families . . . Roy Cavanaugh . . . who was so badly wounded in the Battle of the Somme that he lived but a short time. Ted Rogers, who was with Roy at the time, was wounded by the same shell, but his injuries were slight. Other casualties were: Chas. Wilson, T. J. Carson, Wm. Drysdale, Ronald Baddagel, Andrew Noble, R. M. Knowles, Fred Ball, A. J. Body, Cecil Halliday, J. W. Andrews, A. K. Bender.

Among those who were wounded at one time or another were: Dick Moore, George Gray, Russ McLaughlin, H. Head and J. Minchin.

With the signing of the armistice it naturally followed that the community wished to see its sons return home as speedily as possible and to honor them upon their return. "Welcome Home" gatherings were held from time to time as opportunity permitted and the boys were made to feel that their services had been appreciated. During the war years ladies' organizations and the Red Cross sent many parcels overseas, and Victory Loans and Red Cross drives were highly successful. On one occasion an auction sale for the benefit of the Red Cross brought in results running well up in the three figure bracket.

The '30's Again

FOLLOWING the great relief of the signing of the Armistice came somewhat of a "let-down" from the strain of the war years, but high prices for farm products maintained a period of prosperity until the terrific crash of markets in 1929, and then followed the story of the lean crop years of the "Dirty Thirties," when failure followed failure. People were discouraged but doggedly determined to hang on, and then coincident with the change of fortune in better crops came rumblings that the peace settlement was proving little better than an "Armistice," for rumblings of war were heard again. That such a catastrophe should occur twice in one generation seemed unbelievable, but fate destined that we should again be embroiled in another orgy of destruction and death.

The Next War

AS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR the boys began joining the colors at an early date, but a new note had crept into this conflict—the civilian population was as much in need as the armed population, and women too were taken into

armed units. The strategy of this war proved to be so different from that of the First World War that it proved to be a battle of machines and output rather than of actual manpower. Our community was well represented in all the branches of the services and though sad losses occurred, the number were fewer and we record the following: Stanley Wick and George Nisbet. During this war, as in the first, the Red Cross, Victory Loan and all other drives were well supported, the Community passing its objective in each case.

All honor to those of our boys and girls who answered the call to defend our way of life.

"They loved Honor more than they feared Death."

For many years following War I an annual Memorial Service was held, the organization work of these services being in the hands of the few veterans who continued to reside in the community. At first the services were held on the Sunday nearest May 24th, but later this was changed to the actual day set apart for Remembrance, November 11th. These services became a part of community service and were always well attended. They were discontinued during the second war, but revived following the war's end.

As the boys and girls returned from the Second War they were gladly welcomed and "Welcome Home" evenings were held. At these, the returning veterans received autographed "Welcome Home" booklets, and when the final list was completed all received engraved rings.

The Roarin' Game

THE WINTER OF 1947-48 was one of the longest on record. Curling enthusiasts were still playing as late as April 15th. The following is a summary of the big bonspiel held in February.

Grand Challenge

1st—Travel clocks, donated by the Curling Club, won by Roy Balkwill. 2nd—Windshield fans, donated by the Curling Club, won by A. Bennett. 3rd—Ornamental dogs, donated by Axness Bros., won by A. Sibbald. 4th—Bed lamps, donated by Johnson & McRae, won by T. Jackson.

Royal Bank

1st—Auto Rugs, donated by Bennett and Son, won by C. Hudson. 2nd—Thermos bottles, donated by Jackson and Son, won by Howard Sibbald. 3rd—Entree dishes, donated by T. Eaton Company, won by A. Reynolds. 4th—Cups and Saucers, donated by Hudson's Bay Company, won by H. Kennedy.

Farmers

1st—Hams, donated by Intercontinental Pkrs.,

won by Howard Sibbald. 2nd—Auto rugs, donated by Sibbald, Reynolds and R. McMillan, won by Geo. Rouleau. 3rd—Driving mitts, donated by W. L. Clark, won by A. Sibbald. 4th—Double boilers, donated by E. Larocque, won by H. Kennedy.

Lumbermans

1st—Clocks, donated by Merchants Hotel, won by J. McRae. 2nd—Bridge sets, donated by Harry Dishaw, won by E. Sibbald. 3rd—Coffee percolators, donated by O'Hara and Sons, won by D. Code. 4th—Vases, donated by Mrs. M. Parker, won by R. Dickinson.

Consolation

1st—Electric clocks, donated by Kerr and Hudson, won by J. Kerr. 2nd—Egg cookers, donated by Curling Club, won by R. McMillan. 3rd—Men's Toilet Sets, donated by J. Leach, won by B. Gray. 4th—Chocolates, donated by Kim, won by H. Dishaw.

Special Prizes

Steak Dinners, donated by The Cafe, won by W. Larocque.

The Personnel of the Rinks

F. Kasserman skip, Doc. Isley third, T. Porter second, Ethel McAdam lead; H. Kennedy, H. Tilk, H. Todd, Pat Todd; H. Dishaw, H. Head, C. Pearson, Agnes Hudson; B. Gray, O. Johnston, Fern Fletcher, Mrs. Elliott; E. Sibbald, S. McAdam, R. Amy, Bertha Henderson; A. Bennett, C. Kerr, W. Gilchrist, R. Clark; L. Clark, H. Neve, N. Johnson, Reta Balkwill; R. McMillan; B. Hamilton, Elva Fletcher, Lois Balkwill; A. Reynolds, W. Haviland, Mrs. Todd, J. Leach; T. Jackson, P. Head, Bernice Reynolds, Miss Ludwig; Geo. Rouleau, Bob Jackson, Isobel Clark, Mamie McNab; J. McRae, P. Balkwill, P. Shea, Wm. McMillan; R. Balkwill, G. Balkwill, Ida Isley, L. Porter; B. McAdam, S. Fletcher, A. Kerr, Ann Larocque; L. McBean, Glen Amy, E. Amy, C. Clark, J. Kerr, Edna Sibbald, Audrey Kennedy, Bertha King; W. Larocque, A. Elliott, R. O'Hara, Mary Larocque; C. Hudson, R. Parker, P. Gaffney, D. Shea; R. Dickinson, Ide McMillan, C. Haviland, Hazel Nisbet, A. McMillan, P. Sibbald, Kay Sibbald, Lois Sibbald, M. Moran, I. Snider, Olive Sibbald, D. Code, T. Porter, F. Ball, Bernice Code; C. Lewis, R. Ball, Grace Lewis, Margaret Gratton.

Outlook: The rink was closed by Armstrong.

At the rink the ladies sponsored a banquet and the prizes were given out. The money from the banquet was for the rock fund.

The rink was held in February and the following is a summary:



Grandmothers' Day at Homemakers Club 1930. Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Swain, Mrs. Seay, Mrs. Meaken, Mrs. C. McMillan, Mrs. McBain, Mrs. W. Cole, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Mannen, Mrs. A. Deschamp.



Grandmothers' Day at Homemakers' Club 1947. Mrs. Moran, Mrs. E. Larocque, Mrs. W. McMillan, Mrs. C. B. Smith, Mrs. Bartindale, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. J. Lerimer, Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. Wick, Mrs. B. Read, Mrs. J. Sibbald, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. H. Nisbet.



Grandmother's Day at Homemakers Club 1947. Flapper (Mrs. Wick) old fashioned (Mrs. Forsyth). Dresses made from pins and newspapers.



Moving Tim Pomeroy's Building, 1926.



Before tree-stripping (right).
After tree-stripping (below).



Grand Challenge

1st—Edna Sibbald, Fern Fletcher, Shirley McAdam, Mary Larocque. 2nd—Agnes Hudson, Emma Hudson, E. Elliott, Kathy Larocque.

Curling Club

1st—Edna Sibbald. 2nd—Bernice Reynolds, Olive Sibbald, Lois Balkwill, Mrs. Millar.

Consolation

1st—Vi Strouts, Jean McMillan, Nethie Spillo-ray, Mamie McNab. 2nd—H. Nisbet, Alice White, Mary Larocque, Jr., Lorna Wilson.

Personnel of 1948 Bonspiel

Isobel Clark, Ida Isley, Enid Clark and D. Tyler; Ida McMillan, Reta Balkwill, Miss Ludwig, Ann Larocque; Mrs. Todd, Bertha Henderson, Dorothy McAdam, Mrs. Emmerson; Vi Strouts, Jean McMillan, Nethie Spilloway, Mamie McNab; Bertha King, Florence McRae, Beryl Emmerson, Irene Wycherly; Edna Sibbald, Fern Fletcher, Shirley McAdam, Mary Larocque.

More About Sports

SEVERAL pee-wee and junior friendly hockey games were enjoyed by spectators and players alike. Bill Gilchrist (coach) reports that 24 Conquest pee-wees turned out for one game.

Due to bad roads the senior hockey schedule was never finished and no winner declared. The following men played for Conquest: Bob Jackson, Lee Larocque, Walt Larocque, Stewart Larocque, Les Porter, Cec McAdam, L. Shraeder, Roy O'Hara, Phil Head, Gibb Balkwill, Frank Tyler, Pete Balkwill, J. O'Hara, D. Wylie, W. Sauders, P. Smith.

When all the curling draws were completed the club wound up the season with a "novelty" game. The ladies dressed as men and vice versa. Doc Isley was the envy of all the ladies in the rink for his gorgeous figure. Everyone agreed the game was a "wow". Before the 1948-49 season opened the club had raised enough money to purchase a second set of matched rocks.

In June the district convention of Homemakers was held in the United Church with Mrs. Wright as special speaker.

In June also Mrs. R. Scott held a very successful music recital in the Church Auditorium. It was well attended and much appreciated by relatives and friends of the pupils.

Our local sports day was held on June 7th. Conquest won the hard ball tournament; Bonnie Brae the men's softball and Conquest the girls' softball. There was a colorful bicycle parade, Doug Gilchrist winning first, for the best decor-

ated bike; Helen Pearson took second and Ruthie Hudson, third.

During the year seven of our girls were married, Muriel Sibbald, Luella Read, Eloise, Audrey and Marjorie Johnson, Jean Head and Reta Balkwill. The last three were married in our United Church. All these girls were honored with community showers.

The District Grows

IN 1948 the housing situation was eased a bit when Bruce Grant, Herb Rogers, Mrs. Emmerson, Mrs. Moran, Ken Dishaw, Duncan McMillan and Mel Fletcher either built or moved in houses. A glassed-in porch was built on the front of the manse and the building succeeded.

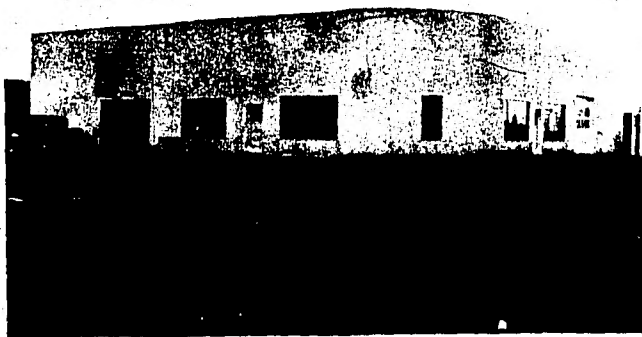
The Ladies' Aid had a very busy and successful year. They raised funds for the repairs to the manse by putting on a bazaar, fowl supper, making and selling quilts, etc. After not having a fowl supper here for several years the community really appreciated the usual, bountiful meal prepared by the ladies.

New arrivals in this district were: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dishaw, twins, Garnet and Grace; Mr. and Mrs. John Wyatt, boy, Stanley; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Weir, boy, Garry; Mr. and Mrs. Russ Amy, girl, Peggie; Mr. and Mrs. I. Snider, girl, Penny; Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Read, boy, Howard; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kerr, boy, Carson; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kennedy, boy, Daniel; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gorham, girl, Glenda.

In the fall of the year we lost three of our business men and families. Clarence Hudson, a local boy, who has been in store work here for about 13 years, moved to Jasper to go into a garage business with his brother Harold. R. J. Dickinson, our C.P.R. agent for 11 years was moved to Outlook. Jack Kerr, also a local boy, sold his butcher shop and moved to Outlook to start a butcher shop and freezer plant. As a token of esteem in which these families were held, the first two were presented with easy chairs and the latter with an elderdown comforter and a purse of money. Mrs. Parker sold her shop and has gone into business in Edmonton. Before leaving she was presented with a purse of money.

In October the district was deeply shocked by the sudden passing of one of our early settlers, Wm. Emmerson and of a former local boy, Harold Hudson. C. Hudson having moved to Jasper, Edgar Sibbald was elected to fill his place on the town council for the next three years.

1948 also marked a milestone in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. W. McMillan. The Municipal Council tendered them a turkey supper and presented



Bennett's Garage.



Junior Softball Team: Mabel Scaddan, Diane Neve, Eleanor Geib, M. Lylyk, Joan King, Donna Balkwill, L. Balkwill, Doreen Bartindale, Bertha King (coach), Jean Lylyk, Kay McMillan, Irene Leach, Olive Snider.



Conquest Hotel



Dr. L. Clarke—Dentist.



Massey-Harris



New Cafe—Bill McAdam in foreground.



Ida McMillan, Bert Gray, Alvin Bennett, E. Elliott, Tilda Jackson, Henry Head, Isobel Clark, Kelly Kerr, Clarence Hudson, Geo. Hudson, Grace Todd, Henry Todd.



Henry Head, Bert Gray, Lorne Clark, Alvin Bennett.

Mr. McMillan with an engraved Parker Pen and Pencil set. He served fifteen years as councillor and deputy reeve and four more years as reeve.

In the fall of the year Wm. McAdam and J. McRae took over the management of the new cafe.

Community Entertainment

THE LOCAL ELK'S LODGE entertained about 200 kiddies at a free picture show on December 18th. Immediately after the show Santa appeared with a box laden with candies and nuts and proceeded to distribute them.

The United Sunday School held its Christmas service Sunday, December 19. The programme was in the nature of a family visit to Grand-mother's home with father, mother and children (one from each class) introducing a class number, each number being a carol, tableau, solo, story or descriptive travelogue. Mrs. Santa appeared at the conclusion and introduced the "Spirit of Christmas" as little Marilyn Sibbald, dressed as a fairy, rose from out the box. The pupils of the school and all visiting children were given a gift of candy.

On December 22nd the school presented their annual Christmas Concert under the leadership of Mr. Underwood, Mr. S. Sweet, Miss J. Clark and Miss M. Fallis. Friends and relatives declared it one of the best held here in years. The programme was as follows:

1. Santa Claus Drill (Room 1)
2. A Christmas Secret (Monologue) by Joe Sibbald.
3. The Claus Family (Room 2)
4. Santa Claus in Mother Goose Land (Room 1)
5. A Christmas Pageant (Room 2)
6. Carols—High School Chorus
7. "A Few Friends to Dinner" (High School)
8. "Child Psychology" (High School).

Conclusion

TO TRACE the growth of the district from pioneer days to the present time, has been a most interesting, if rather difficult task. It has been impossible to contact all the pioneers and we may have missed out some names of persons or important events that had a bearing on the growth of the community. If so it is hoped we will be pardoned. In the future we expect to have a committee appointed each year to keep this booklet up-to-date, and so avoid such mistakes.

Many changes in the district have come about in the past 44 years. It has been a wonderful experience to see the country develop from the bare prairie, to a country dotted with shelter belts and tree strips, well-built homes, good roads, telephones, a hydro line, and in the not too distant future—irrigation.

The business section of the town of Conquest has been ravaged by five big fires but these losses are gradually being replaced by well-built modern buildings.

Many of our girls and boys have graduated from our high school, then gone on to become teachers, nurses, doctors, dentists, stenographers, etc. After a few years out in the wide, wide world some of them have decided "there's no place like home" and have returned to establish themselves in Conquest.

Today many of the men and women who bravely faced pioneer conditions in this new land have passed on to their reward. Only those who lived during that period or experienced like conditions in some other part of the country can realize how much courage, faith and endurance were required to carry on in spite of all the difficulties encountered.

L'Envoi

THUS TO US and later generations is passed on the work so well begun by the pioneers and we must try to realize their dreams and ambitions for "This Conquest of Ours," each individual contributing his or her share towards that realization.

In closing we quote the words of one pioneer:

"It will always make me feel happy to know that even I played some part in levelling off some of the rough spots on the fertile plains of Fertile Valley around "This Conquest of Ours"."

1949.

Committed in charge of History for 1949:
Mrs. Tilda Jackson, Mrs. Dora Head, Mrs. Olive Sibbald.



Conquest and District taken from plane in 1947. (Looking North)



Conquest and District taken from plane in 1947. (Looking South)